



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

OCTOBER 2013

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LVII, NO. 2

FROM P.E.W. TO PEW

Never, ever, doubt that the good you do for others makes an impression

I received the following note in the mail last month. I thought it was worth sharing. Only the names have been changed.

Dear Rev. Witschy,

I just want you to know that my parents, and our lives, have been blessed to have two of your church members, Fritz and Frieda Franz, as neighbors. We can't even begin to imagine two people who have more truly taken on the phrase "Love thy neighbor" and embraced it as they do.

They have watched over and out for my elderly parents for a very long time. They made sure they always had food and services to make their home safe and happy. They were there to answer the 2 a.m. call when my 93 year old dad fell out of bed and needed to go to the hospital. They were there visiting every day. They were there to help in every way possible.

My dad passed away just over a week ago, and they were there to help me prepare my mom for the funeral – they drove us to the funeral home, they took us to the bank and to the Social Security office.

I asked them once about the kindness they bestow upon us (the blessings) and they said it is the mission of their church to love thy neighbor.

Rev. Witschy, whatever it is that you preach or say to your congregation please keep doing it; you are truly doing God's work and the blessings of your mission are being felt every day by my family.

*With great appreciation,
Jane Doe*

FROM
P.E.W.
TO
PEW

I share this, not to give myself a pat on the back, though I would love to take the credit given to me by Jane Doe. The reality, however, is that I can't. The motivation these two members of Holy Cross have to "love thy neighbor" is a result of the workings of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament. I pass this note along to you as a word of encouragement. What we say and do make a difference. People notice. And we don't have to be fanatical in sharing what we believe. Fritz and Frieda never said a word about their faith or why they were doing what they were doing. They just did it. But when asked why, they gave a ready reply. Wow! And where did they learn that? 1 Peter 3:15: "...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

When you do good to others, they will ask why; then, "with gentleness and respect," give your answer.

And I'll See You in Worship,

Pastor Emil Witschy



"You shall love your
neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:39



Tuesday, October 1

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

Thursday, October 10

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

Saturday, October 12

7:00 p.m. – "Whist" Card Game Night
Proceeds to benefit hunger outreach at Summerfield United Methodist's food pantry

Saturday, November 9

9:30 a.m. – Breakfast and Artists – our third annual event, with guest speaker Jennifer Marr of the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry, along with her Comfort Dog, Addie



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

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Pastor's E-mail: pewhclc@mindspring.com

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

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Christian Preschool Phone: 203-268-6471 E-mail: 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: Michael J. Gilbertson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESIDENT: Cliff Schrock

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!
Check out
the Holy Cross
Facebook Page!



THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

By Christian author

V. Gilbert Beers

"Seeds of strength are planted in the soils of weakness. Your most uplifting strength tomorrow may grow from your most debilitating weakness today.

---Reprinted with permission from
The Newsletter Newsletter © 2013

NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the November edition.

The deadline for all articles is

Tuesday

October 15.

Please submit

articles to 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

Along with ever-present vision for our future growth, we need to regain our momentum

Momentum. Read the word quickly or slowly—mo-men-tum—and either way you have a word that makes you think of speed-based movement and progress.

It's one of the quirks of the English language that a word that conjures images of constant movement and motion is mainly made up of the word "moment," or a very brief period of time. But for momentum to be most effective, the opposite needs to take place. Momentum needs to be long-lasting. And when it is, it's the desire of just about any person or entity that wants to be successful, such as athletes, sports teams and anyone in business trying to make the biggest profits.

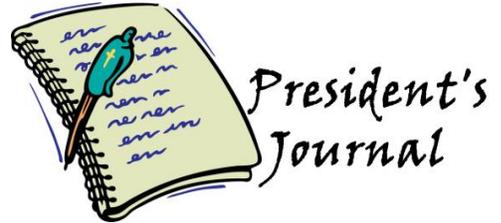
But what about momentum in the church? How can momentum's physics definition of "the quantity of motion of a moving body, measured as a product of its mass and velocity," pertain to a church?

It doesn't, of course, if we consider the church itself as a property. It's not physically going anywhere, but the church has an inward, secondary momentum involving the driving force to get things accomplished.

Holy Cross has had many periods of such momentum during its 56-year history. There was a great deal of momentum when the church was first formed and a location was determined, church and parsonage built, programs formed and membership grown. Momentum was also present when we, among many moments, built the fellowship hall addition, and opened a preschool, and called our second pastor, and last year had some major property improvements done. For any of these and similar moments in our history, we had to have momentum to make the decision, build up interest and financial support, complete the project and maintain it.

The troubling thing about momentum—it being basically something from the world of physics—is that in the same amount of time that it can build up, it can just as easily slow down.

I feel we've experienced a bit of the slowdown effect in looking at 2013 to this point, primarily in worship attendance and financial giving, both of which were better numbers-wise in 2012.



Granted, it is difficult to keep momentum going, particularly in the physical sense of moving an object, but it happens often with progress and programs, too. Momentum within a sports dynasty is very impressive. Rather than illustrate that point with a professional team or athlete, I'll pick as an example the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. In Division III NCAA football, Mount Union has been in 16 of the last 20 title games, winning 11 times. Since 1985, it has won 24 Ohio Athletic Conference titles. All of this was accomplished under Coach Larry Kehres, who in 27 years as head coach had a 332-24-3 record, making him one of only 10 coaches in college football history to win 300 or more games.

Mount Union has had momentum going for nearly 30 years. But it will be interesting to see if it continues because Larry Kehres has stepped down as coach. He's been replaced by his son, Vince, who won his coaching debut Sept. 7, 30-27, over Franklin of Indiana, at Mount Union Stadium. Momentum ebbs and flows for a variety of reasons: a change in leadership, in objectives, in conditions, and so forth. The next five to 10 years will help Vince Kehres discover if momentum leaves Mount Union due to a change in leadership.

When momentum slows or increases at Holy Cross, we certainly help ourselves by figuring out what caused it. (I feel, personally, that our focus on specific, targeted goals in 2012 sped up our momentum, but the reverse effect has taken place thus far in 2013.) But as church president, trying to lead us to greater heights, I will advise our members by reminding us that our speed of momentum can only be going at a high rate by how fast we ourselves make it go. And a speedy, progressive pace—which certainly must be what we all want to have happen—has to be done through constant diligence, involvement, focus, and engagement, also known as attending worship more often than not, being involved socially more often than not, attending adult and youth Bible education more often than not, and thinking of giving back to God first more often than not.

If we do all of those things, our momentum will not slow down, God will bless our actions and desires to please Him through our work for Him, and Holy Cross will not ever have to be concerned again with having to figure out where its momentum went.

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

Here are details about two upcoming events at Holy Cross!



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, October 12, beginning 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 could provide a card table, please let us know*

---DAVID and MARY ANN SCHILLER

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Pantry needs food and fall/winter clothing donations

The Summerfield United Methodist food pantry that Holy Cross supports is in need of 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, mac and 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. They are now taking clean, gently-used, folded fall and winter clothes only for men, women and children.

---MARIE MORRIS



4th Annual

BREAKFAST and ARTISTS

Saturday, November 9
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.



Guest Speaker:
Jennifer Marr of the
Lutheran Church
Charities K-9 Comfort
Dog Ministry,
along with her
Comfort Dog
Addie!



Open to the public with a
suggested donation of \$10.00.

Tickets will go on sale
between services beginning
October 20. For advance
tickets or more information
contact Cindy Ciccio at

203-395-3404 or

CLC717@gmail.com .

How can LCC K-9 Comfort
Dogs help? Visiting with a
Comfort Dog can help people
feel less lonely and
less depressed.



A Comfort Dog visit
can offer entertainment or a
welcome distraction from
pain and infirmity. The
Comfort Dog makes it easier
for two strangers to talk.

INQUIRING MINDS

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

We won't dwell on the limited response to the latest Inquiring Minds question. We'll just chalk it up to the end-of-summer doldrums and our question getting lost in the shuffle of school starting, etc. We can't believe that most of you were "bored" with our question: "*What is your favorite board game or card game?*" The nine answers we received are listed in the order in which they came into the newsletter newsroom. Thank you to our respondents:

Effie (and Bob) Solaz: "Bob and I like pinochle. We play it quite frequently, especially when our son comes from Jersey. They come in at 11 p.m. and we play until 2 in the morning—they love it...so do we."

Pastor Witschy: "This peace-loving guy has enjoyed the game of Risk since my elementary school days, when several of my friends and I gathered regularly to play. Though I haven't played it with others on a board for years, it is probably my most-used game on my iPhone!"

David and Mary Ann Schiller: "We have lots of favorite games, from Chutes and Ladders to RackO to Battleship to Scrabble. We especially like Jenga and Uno because of unexpected personality characteristics elicited by players. Right now we like Whist because we enjoy leading it for a group of people!"

Audrey Paray: "My favorite board game is Scrabble. We play when my family gets together and we usually play as partners. My two grandsons are unbeatable (at least in our group). One night we had a game at my daughter's house; one grandson was at college (UConn) and we played with Skype so the boys could still be partners. It was fun."

Mary Schrock: "I love playing board and card games, which I think comes from having five sisters, and when growing up, playing games was such a memorable way to amuse ourselves when we weren't allowed to watch lots of television. So this is a hard question for me to just pick one. Despite having a six-hour Monopoly marathon last Christmas with Cliff and Joelle, I'd have to give the nod to Scrabble...not only do I have the swivel-top board game, but I also have the game on my laptop."

Bill Skoog: "I am not into board games at this time in my life, but in my younger days I enjoyed Monopoly and Battleship. I still enjoy playing pinochle when I can find some people to play with. How about a pinochle group at Holy Cross?"

Edith Skoog: "My favorite card games are Freecell and Spider Solitaire on my computer. I, like Bill, enjoy pinochle when we can find some partners."

Manfred Schlaich: "Stratego, a game of strategy."

Cliff Schrock: "I avoid games that can last for hours, I don't like to sit for that long. In my youth I liked the board-game version of the TV show Concentration; it was awesome. Nowadays, I favor playing Life and Rummikub as board games, and for card games I enjoy Uno and Monopoly's card game, which is a lot quicker than the board game."

Okay, in keeping with a leisure-world theme, here is our next Question of the Month, which could transport you to a fantasy world: "*If you could enter the cartoon/comic strip world, which character would you want to be for a day or two?*"

We hope to receive more answers than we did this month! Get all your family members involved and send in your response(s) by Tuesday, October 15. Answers can be e-mailed to holycrss@mindspring.com or written on paper and put in the "Newsletter" mailbox (bottom row, far left). Make sure to include your name. Answers will appear in our November issue. We look forward to hearing who would choose to be Charlie Brown or Popeye or even Bugs Bunny!

---CLIFF SCHROCK
Newsletter Managing Editor

CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA

New Social Ministry project kicks off in October with goal of bringing joy to seafarers

At a commission meeting earlier this year, the Social Ministry Commission decided to support a mission outside of our own congregation: the Seafarers & International House. After reading this description, we hope you will choose to "buoy up" and help out!

The Seafarers & International House (S&IH) serves seafarers of merchant ships, and one of its biggest projects of the year is called a "Christmas-at Sea." You may recall that at our November 2011 Breakfast & Artists event (formerly Prayer Breakfast), Rev. Marsh Luther Drege from S&IH was our guest speaker and he explained a bit about this holiday project.

"Christmas-at-Sea," continues on Page 6



“Christmas-at-Sea,” continued from Page 5

The objective of Christmas-at-Sea, supported by many churches in the tri-state area, is to bring joy to seafarers who won't be home with their families for the Christmas holiday. The “joy” these seafarers receive is in the form of a satchel that is filled with gifts, including a sweatshirt, socks, t-shirt, knit cap, a can of nuts or chocolate bar and a Christmas card. During the month of October, we ask you to look for our Christmas-at-Sea poster in the narthex that has 3” by 5” shopping cards for these items that are needed for the satchels. Select a card (or cards), shop for the item listed, and return the item(s) by October 27. Our goal is to put together 25 satchels.



After our commission collects the items and assembles the satchels, they will be given to Port Chaplain Ruth Setaro, who will distribute the satchels to crew members aboard a vessel in the Connecticut/New York ports during the weeks prior to Christmas. When Christmas arrives and the ships are out at sea, the captain will gather the crew for a celebration at which time each seafarer will be given a satchel. Instead of a lonely celebration away from loved ones, the seafarers will have a joyous celebration, knowing that they have been thought of by anonymous persons who have taken the time to donate an item or two for the satchel.

Please help us to spread Christmas joy and God's love to the men and women who work on merchant ships. Look for the poster this month, do some shopping of the needed items, and leave your donations in the specially-marked box in the narthex. Thank you in advance for supporting this mission! For more information go to www.sihnyc.org and click on Christmas-at-Sea.

---MARY SCHROCK

for the Social Ministry Commission

FINANCIAL NOTES**Offerings update for the month of August; keep electronic giving as a viable, easy option**

The calendar on the wall tells me that soon it will be time to order the boxes of 2014 offering envelopes. Each year we review our needs so that we order just what we need in order to help us save money and not waste valuable resources. So now is an appropriate time to encourage your participation in Holy Cross' electronic-giving program.

Quite simply the more members who utilize electronic giving, the fewer envelopes we need to order. Think about it, no more searching for an envelope on Sunday morning as you head off to church. No need to write a check or stop by the ATM. And if you are unable to be in worship, you can remain confident that you have done your part to supporting the important ministry of Holy Cross.



Electronic giving is safe and secure. You can contribute directly from your bank account or by using a credit card (think miles!). When you enroll online, Holy Cross does not receive your bank information. You can set up your giving to be made at several different intervals. You can even elect to make contributions to our loan-repayment fund on a separate schedule.

To learn more about our electronic-giving program, visit our website (www.holycrosstrumbull.org) and click on the Online Giving button. Should you have a question about the program, feel free to email me at fin-sec@holycrosstrumbull.org.

2013 Average Weekly Need – \$4,755.77**August 2013 Offerings**

August 04 - \$3,525.05
 August 11 - \$3,945.73
 August 18 - \$3,519.09
 August 25 - \$4,475.55

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

Financial Secretary

COMMUNITY SUPPER

Serve the Lord by serving the needy a welcome meal

"You don't know how tough it is out there!" complained a recipient at the September 3 Community Supper. Yet lots of folks gave a hearty "Thank You!" or "God Bless" on their way out. An abundance of cooks (Bessie Burton, Lorraine and Jim Finch, Diane Hintz, Anna Schaaf, and Nancy Sabol) accomplished those tasks within 1½ hours.



Gratefully, Kendra Norman arrived at 4:15 to pour juice and slice ham.

Soon the Rodriguez girls – Marissa and Alexis – arrived to assist in slicing ham and getting food out on the serving table. Just under the wire, Jim Leslie and Laurie and Joey Vaitkus arrived to help serve 99 meals. Even David helped serve (rather than wash dishes).

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 (this month on October 6, the Sunday after we serve) 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, October 1. If you can volunteer your time, please put your name on the sheet found on the narthex table.

---DAVID and MARY ANN SCHILLER



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: **Paul Carlson**, diagnosed with a blood cancer; **Gary Jackson**; **JoAnne Meyer**; **George Morris**; **Anita Schoch**, with chronic back pain; and for our homebound members – **Ray Dawkins**, **Emma Fengler**, **George Jacobs**, **Harvey Pomerenk** and **Dorothy Schweitzer**.

We prayed for our family and friends: **Sandy Agate**, friend of Lydia Struzik, recovering from back surgery; **Gail Agria**, battling breast cancer; **Hayley Annino**, friend of Kathryn Struzik, diagnosed with leukemia; **Ruth Boivie**, Rick's mom; **Marti Fischer**, cousin of Carol Burns, who has progressive blindness and was paralyzed following a fall; **Louise Frieden**, Jeannie Mones' mom, hospitalized following a fall; **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; **Kathleen Kassouf**, mother of a friend of Kathryn Struzik, who has been diagnosed with lupus; **Betty Kessler**; and **Linda Kissh**, close friend of the DiLallas, recovering from breast cancer surgery and awaiting biopsy results; **Mary Koch**, niece of Ron Froehlich, who will have surgery for a cancerous tumor on her pancreas; **Claire Leslie**, Jim's mother; **Gary Liptack**, rehabbing from a stroke; **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 and Joyce Roman, in rehab following knee-replacement surgery.



We prayed also for **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; **Dave Rentz**, father of Chris Matthews, Diane Senderquest and Matt Rentz, who has recently undergone medical tests; **Wilma Ricketson**, diagnosed with lung cancer, and **Luis Rivera**, friend of Doris Bernt, recovering from a lung transplant after having been on the waiting list for quite some time; **Lois Sanders**, daughter of Ron and Judie Froehlich, recovering from breast surgery; **Joey Senft**, cousin of the Senft family, with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease); **Campbell Taft**, 3-year-old son of a friend of the Schrocks, dealing with the effects of brain cancer as he now begins 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; **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; and all those who have asked for prayer but wish to remain anonymous.

Lastly, we prayed for the family and friends of former Holy Cross member **Doc DeVed**, who was called home to the Lord on September 8.

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

YOUR BOARD/YOUR TEAM

This member shows how you can find the time to give to Holy Cross as a Board member

*This is No. 18 in a series of articles that highlights the people serving—despite already hectic personal schedules—on your Board of Directors. This month's Board member is our **First-Year Shepherd Gary Messerschmitt**.*

At Golf Digest, where I work, we have an award that's been given out since the 1950s. It's the Most Improved Golfer Award, and it not only was meant to honor the regular amateur, encouraging him or her to improve their game, but the MIG on the men's and women's pro tours. One of the ways we judged the winner was by looking for steady progression. A tour pro who had been out there for three to four years was ideal, who saw a year-by-year improvement in their stroke average, money earned, and number of high finishes.

I think of this month's Board member in a Most Improved Golfer sense, not because Gary didn't do church work elsewhere, but because he gradually built into a devoted "worker" for Holy Cross as he settled into life as an HC member. Gary is originally from Sayville, N.Y., where he was a member at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church as his last place of worship before Holy Cross. (Sayville is on the south-central shore of Long Island.) At St. John's he was a Sunday School teacher for several years and a youth-group leader as well as serving on two pastoral call committees. He was a member of St. John's video ministry for nearly 15 years, which was a program of recording the church service every Sunday to make copies for local nursing homes and shut-ins, which is something we used to do here but don't any longer.

Gary moved to Trumbull in July 2009, and in just four-plus years has progressed into teaching 5th/6th grade Sunday School, along with Shepherd duties. He has helped with the Sunday School program in those four years, and explains he "enjoys bringing youth closer to Christ." Gary has also served as a reader and assisted with special Sunday School presentations during church services.

Gary has done all this as well as being husband to Kristen and father to boys, Peter, and John (Jack). He also has a full-time job as an IT manager, specializing in global data-center design and performance. You think his plate is full with all that? Try tacking on that he is an Eagle Scout and the Cubmaster for Pack 164 in Trumbull. And there is more: Gary is the Tashua Elementary School Father's Club treasurer and he assists the PTA. Isn't it interesting that sometimes the busiest person still feels it's important to be busy at church too? Our members would learn from such devotion to being actively involved in home, work and church!

Gary's answer to the question, "**What satisfaction do you get from serving your church?**" is inspiring: "I get the satisfaction of serving God and the community, making friends with fellow Christians, and being part of a loving and accepting family."

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

**Highlighting
our
Board
Members**



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 the Holy Cross members who helped with either shopping, cooking or serving at the September 3 Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport: **Lorraine and Jim Finch, Jim Leslie, Kendra Norman, Marissa and Alexis Rodriguez, Nancy Sabol, David and Mary Ann Schiller, and Laurie Vaitkus and her son Joey.**

To **Linda Suhr** who is faithful in her service to helping with church-office tasks one morning a week.



**Neighbor to Neighbor works
not only with seniors but with
those who have temporary
short-term disabilities.**

---A simple fact from our
Social Ministry Commission

CELEBRATING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



OCT. 2:	LINDA TOROK	OCT. 18:	SARAH SELK
OCT. 3:	KRISTEN MESSERSCHMITT	OCT. 20:	KELLY STREICH
OCT. 4:	DORIS DIETMAN		SCOTT TURNBULL
	JULIE ERNST		JOEL WILSON
	JODI GENTRY	OCT. 22:	LYNDSAY GUERRERA
OCT. 5	DEB LESLIE	OCT. 25:	BARBARA SCHNEIDER
	JAMES TURNBULL	OCT. 26:	HEATHER FANNING
OCT. 6:	TRINITY LANNERD		KENDRA NORMAN
OCT. 7:	DAVE BOGEN		JOHN SHERWONIT
OCT. 8:	CHRIS DELOGE	OCT. 28:	MATHEW BENSON
	KELLEY PARDEE		RICK BOIVIE
OCT. 9:	LORI THOMPSON		JOHN DELOGE
OCT. 10:	SOPHIA POLLEX		INGRID LEIBOLD
OCT. 11:	GREG DOWLING	OCT. 29:	MICHAEL CROCKER III
OCT. 14:	HARVEY POMERENK		BARBARA WHITE
OCT. 16:	BRODY TURNBULL		ROBERT STREICH
OCT. 17:	HAYDEN COLLINS	OCT. 31:	MARCIA WILSON

WORDS TO LIVE BY

How is your path? Make sure it's not abandoned

Some Christian converts in an African village were diligent about daily prayer. In fact, they each had a special place in the thicket outside town where they prayed in solitude. Over time, they wore pathways through the brush to their private prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on that particular footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: "Friend, there's grass growing on your path."

How worn is your own path to prayer? Are you persistent when answers don't seem to come? Do you trust that God will answer your prayers, according to his good and gracious will?

Don't abandon your pathway to prayer. When you grow weary, remember Galatians 6:9 (NIV), which promises that "at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

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CHURCH CHUCKLES

