

The Compass

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Cross Roads Community
United Methodist Church

February 2010

Wit from Wick

You may not know it, but I serve as your Sunday acolyte. Acolyte is just a fancy-schmancy word for candle-lighter. Oh, the candles on the altar are not mine to awaken with flame. Those I leave for the sound technician of the day. (It is not that I couldn't but, I would likely forget to extinguish them and our insurance company might have some difficulties with that.) I am the one who lights the two candles in the lobby and usually at least some of the candles in the folding candle partition.

It is a mindless job (you know I can hear you thinking that I am well suited for the task.) I used to go through several matches but now have succumbed to the newer convention of using a long lighter. Even then I have found that the charge of lighting the candles is time consuming. There are 42 candles in all. (I confess that I don't always light the whole partition-it is just too exhausting....) Once you point the lighter downward the flame gets less oxygen and so it diminishes its ability to set the wick with light.

Wicks are a whole other business. The new candles usually have bent wicks that first have to be positioned upward. This may fascinate you (I know it fascinates me) that those little "tea lights" (another fancy-schmancy term for little-candles -in- aluminum- tins- that -don't- last- too- long- but- cost- more- than- they- are- worth) have a waxy coating on them which doesn't allow for them to easily ignite. No, you have to position them upward. Then you also have to take extra time to set them aflame because that waxy stuff has to be melted off first before the candle will begin to begin. (I told you that you would be fascinated.)

The candles that have been previously lit are much more responsive to the light. The wick doesn't look so appealing (just for fun, take a bunch of old tea lights, shake them in a bag so that pieces of wicks break off and then take those wick pieces and put them atop some furniture or in some drawers of people who think that mice are not cute little creatures.) However if you just hold the flame close to the wick it will usually light right up. Whatever the reason the light was extinguished in the first place- they are much quicker to respond to the light than the new ones.

It got me thinking (I can still hear you) that these candles have quite a bit in common with our mission to reach new people for Christ. Those new candles need more attention and time. Their wicks have to be positioned "upwards." God will use some event or person (maybe you) to begin the process of repositioning their "wick" to be more receptive to receiving the light. Even after they are in a better arrangement there is still that waxy coating- that translucent mess that prevents them for a time to accept the light.

Maybe it is a lack of knowledge, but more likely it is some hurts or disappointments that they associate with the church or even with God. Finally if new candles are only lit for a few moments- it is much harder for them to be re-lit in the future.

Those candles with old wicks- people who once were connected to God and a community of faith, but are no longer- they are just waiting for someone to

come close and bring the light to them. While they might want to converse about how the light went out in the first place, they are usually very receptive to being "on fire" once again with the light. Pay special attention to those with short wicks-because the flame tends to melt more wax than they can initially handle. In other words, be patient and watch that they don't get smothered by too much churchy-ness. In time their lights can burn just as brightly.

It is my prayer that you will be an acolyte in the places where you live and play and work. Wouldn't it be hot if we followed God's calling to lead one person to be ignited in the fire of God's grace and glory?

You are here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept... Now that God has put you on a hilltop, on a light stand-shine! Keep an open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 The Message

God's Peace- Pastor Randy



Been There, Done That, Got the T-Shirt

If you went to one football game, would you say at the next invitation “nope, sorry, already did that?” If you visited Paris once would you turn down a chance to go again? If you had one child or one grandchild, would you be willing to be a (grand)parent to another? If you read through the New Testament once, could there be a chance that reading through it again might be a worthy investment of your time?

Please consider reading or listening through the New Testament beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17th and completed on the day before Easter Sunday, April 3rd. That is forty days- the same number as the forty days of Lent. There are bookmarks in the lobby that tell you which chapters to read each day. It will take about 25 minutes each day to read six days each week (giving you Saturday to “catch up.”) Each Sunday Pastor Randy will be preaching from some part of the New Testament reading scheduled for that day.

Some of the reasons you may have decided not to participate in the past may have included that “I just don’t get some of it” or “I read the words and I just feel like I am reading the words and nothing sinks in.” If you have ever listened to the radio or watched television chances are there have been times when you were not fully engaged in that either. Why not give the New Testament at least the same opportunity? Trust the Holy Spirit to engage you even if you think that it is just going in one ear/eye and out the other.

Not a reader? The church has a number of audio Bibles on cassette tapes and compact discs. Try listening in the car on the way to school or turn off Letterman and turn on the Bible. The church also has a DVD movie of Matthew’s gospel to get you through the first five days.

There is a sign up sheet in the church lobby. When you sign up to read Pastor Randy will send you a weekly reminder of the chapters to be read each day and some questions to help you focus your reading. On Easter Sunday we will celebrate all the persons who read through the New Testament. What a resurrection morning that will be. Regardless of whether you’ve done it before or not- please consider this invitation the read through the New Testament in 40 days.

Read God’s Plan For You The New Testament In 40 Days

Feb. 17 Matt. 1-7	Mar. 7 Acts 16-20	Mar. 21 1 Tim. 6-Heb. 1
Feb. 18 Matt. 8-12	Mar. 8 Acts 21-26	Mar. 22 Heb. 2-10
Feb. 19 Matt. 13-18	Mar. 9 Acts 27– Rom. 4	Mar. 23 Heb. 11-James 5
	Mar. 10 Rom. 5-10	Mar. 24 1 Pet. 1-1 John 1
Feb. 21 Matt. 19-24	Mar. 11 Rom 11– 1 Cor. 1	Mar. 25 1 John 2-Jude
Feb. 22 Matt. 25-28	Mar. 12 1 Cor. 2-9	Mar. 26 Rev. 1-7
Feb. 23 Mark 1-6		
Feb. 24 Mark 7-11	Mar. 14 1 Cor 10-15	Mar. 28 Rev. 8-15
Feb. 25 Mark 12-16	Mar. 15 1 Cor 16– 2 Cor. 9	Mar. 29 Rev. 16-22
Feb. 26 Luke 1-4	Mar. 16 2 Cor. 10-Gal. 4	Mar. 30 John 1-5
	Mar. 17 Gal. 5– Phil. 1	Mar. 31 John 6-9
Feb. 28 Luke 5-9	Mar. 18 Phil. 2– 1 Thes. 2	Apr. 1 John 10-14
Mar. 1 Luke 10-13	Mar. 19 2 Thes. 3-1 Tim. 5	Apr. 2 John 15-19
Mar. 2 Luke 14-19		Apr. 3 John 20-21
Mar. 3 Luke 20-24		
Mar. 4 Acts 1-9		
Mar. 5 Acts 10-15		

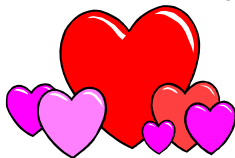


YOUTH NEWS

Join us for the 4th Annual CRUMYs Valentine's Dinner and Fundraiser!

Wednesday February 10th.

A romantic Italian dinner, dessert, music, live auction and entertainment.



Bring the whole family!

Tickets available from all Cross Roads Youth.

\$10 - 13 and older

\$5 - ages 6-12

Free - 5 and under



Confirmation and Youth Group Calendar

Sunday, Feb. 7 - Confirmation: 11:45am - 2:00pm

Sunday, Feb. 14 - NO YOUTH GROUP, UMYs weekend

Sunday, Feb. 21 - Confirmation, 11:45am - 2:00pm

Sunday, Feb. 28 - NO YOUTH GROUP, Bemidji ski trip and lock-in

CRUMYs Update

1. Wed. Feb. 10 - Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser

This is our one big fundraiser of the year and tickets will go on sale starting Sunday, February 7. All CRUMYs and their parents (including 6th graders) are asked to help with this fundraiser. We'll be getting together at 7pm the night before the dinner, Tuesday Feb. 9, to help decorate and tie up any loose ends. On the night of the dinner, youth should wear black pants and a white shirt so they look like wait staff. Parents and youth should arrive at 5pm on the night of the dinner to help with final preparations.

2. Feb. 12-14 - UMYs at St. Cloud Holiday Inn

This is a GREAT TIME and is REQUIRED for all current confirmation students. (Note, UMYs is for high school students, but since our confirmation class includes some 8th graders, they're invited along, too.) Cost is \$130 and our youth fund pays for half. (Full scholarships are also available if necessary... just let Joy know.) You should have received an UMYs brochure with complete details. You will need to fill out the health form and the signed covenant and return both forms to Joy, along with your check for \$65 (made out to Cross Roads Youth). You can just bring these along the day of the event.

3. Feb. 27-28 - Ski Trip & Lock-In, Buena Vista Ski Resort, Bemidji

This is a youth lock-in and ski/tubing trip for all United Methodist Youth in the North Star District. Cost is \$55 which includes ski rental, lift ticket, tubing pass, sleigh rides, an overnight stay in the chalet, and hot breakfast in the morning. Friends welcome! Drivers and chaperones needed (adult chaperones free, gas reimbursed). Check out the Buena Vista Ski Resort: <http://www.bvskiarea.com/>

4. March 20 - Footloose at the Chanhassen followed by Mall of America

We have 15 tickets available for this event on a first-come, first-serve basis. The trip includes an 11am matinee performance, followed by a trip to the Mall of America and Nickelodeon Universe. Cost is \$50/person for the play, and our youth fund will pay 100% for all CRUMYs who attend. Spending money for the Mall of America is extra. Parents/drivers... I need you!

5. June 21-25 - Boundary Waters trip... RSVP by March 1

We will have an informational meeting sometime in February, after the Valentine's Dinner. In general, we have reserved a 20 person group site at Fall Lake Campground within the Superior National Forest. This is a beautiful camp with full RV hook-ups and showers. We will use the group site as our base camp, and those wishing to venture into the Boundary Waters for day trips or overnight trips are welcome to do so in groups of 8 or less. We will need to apply for permits though, so RSVP by March 1 if you'd like to go. Friends welcome! Chaperones needed! Cost to be determined... less than \$50/person, chaperones free.

Missions Update

Our Missions Committee wanted our congregation to see the list of the 2009 Mission Giving. Thanks to pastor Randy for compiling this.

The majority of what is listed comes from within our congregation, including special offerings, the Compassion Children offering and individual donations. The remainder comes from resources outside the congregation, for example a significant portion of Polar Plunge.

The mission giving at Cross Roads Community Church is a very impressive example of the spirit of sharing our congregation has. We should be proud of our generosity. Our committee shouts a huge "THANK-YOU" for your support. We need to carry forward with this spirit of giving. This is especially apropos as Pastor Randy leads us through the New Testament and the emphasis on mission.

~Your Missions Committee

*****Wanted:** If anyone is able and willing to take the Food Shelf items to the New London food shelf, Tuesday 2-6pm and Thursday 10a-2pm., please contact Pat Kaiser

MISSION GIVING 2009

Bless a Home	\$ 932.19
Compassion Children International	\$ 1310.00
Decision Hills Camp	\$ 1063.54
Emma Norton House	\$ 400.00
Food Shelf	\$ 948.00
Gideon's International	\$ 130.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 100.00
Hamline University	\$ 163.00
Heifer International	\$ 804.00
Helping Hands	\$ 200.00
LINK Ministry	\$ 330.00
Love Offering	\$ 375.94
Mosquito Nets	\$ 516.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 245.83
Polar Plunge	\$ 1260.00
NL-S School Supplies	\$ 65.41
UMW General Missions	\$80.00
UMW North Star District Missions	\$175.00
Willmar Women's Shelter House	\$200.00
TOTAL	\$ 9,398.91

Apportionments Outreach & Benv.	\$ 4,602.36
Apportionments Apportionment Grants	\$ 914.64
Apportionments Ministerial Educational Fund	\$ 660.00
Apportionments Black College Fund	\$ 263.28
Apportionments Africa University Fund	\$ 58.92
Apportionments- Mission Focused Total	\$ 6,499.20

Grand Total **\$ 15,898.11**

Gifts in Kind

Bless a Home	Christmas Dinner and many gifts to 10 families in Kandiyohi County
Decision Hills	9 Quilts, physical labor, clerical help, nailed fingers
Food Shelf	695 pounds of food, numerous quilts
Green Lake Bible Camp	upright piano (from fellowship hall)
Habitat for Humanity	brought treats to workers in November
LINK Ministry	donated cleaning supplies and coats for families in need
Midwest Distribution Center	donated layette sets and health kits
NL-S Schools	school supplies (from VBS), boxtops for education, milk tops
Red Bird Mission	Campbell soup labels
Ronald McDonald House	aluminum beverage tabs
Samuelson Family	worked with Decision Hills to bring 3 truckloads of wood



Our Stewardship Last Month:

	Attendance:	General Fund Offerings	Building Fund
Jan. 3	84	4024.50	167.50
Jan. 10	119	3411.80	1355.00
Jan. 17	75	3407.50	1070.00
Jan. 24	110	3716.35	155.00
Jan. 31	—	—	—
Average this month	97	\$3640.04	\$686.88

Average General Fund offering per Sunday needed to meet our 2010 Budget is \$2931.

Our average offering per Sunday to date this year is \$3640.



SAVE THIS DATE!
"IT'S A GIRL THING TEA"
 SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010
 11:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.



We will be doing a "Garden Theme" with guest speaker, Master Gardener Pat Evermann.

More information coming in the March Compass.

Think Spring and get ready to join us for fellowship, learning and of course "TEA"!!!

~Sharon Hagen, Jodi Evenson -Co-Chairs

~Doree Leither, Lumae Erickson, Judy Kluver-
 Committee Members

Decision Hills Happenings...

Make Your Foursome for the Decision Hills Snow Golf Benefit

Saturday, February 13

Form your four-some and raise a team minimum of \$200 to participate in the 1st Annual DHC Snow Golf Benefit! Tournament details will be available on the camp website at www.decisionhills.org after January 1st. A dinner celebration and prizes will take place at the end of the day. Tee off is at 1:00 pm. Email or call the camp at 320-796-5510 or sarah@decisionhills.org if you plan to take part.

The Link Update February 2010

Email Network

We are looking for people who would like to be on an email network in order to respond to various requests and needs that we become aware of in the community. Here are just a few examples: exchange of furniture or appliances, school or sports equipment requests, volunteer teams for household or moving needs, etc. We will also include you for other important updates about upcoming projects and events! If you would like to be on this list, please email Michelle Peterson at fmc_michelle@tds.net

Volunteer Surveys The success of this project hinges on the commitment and participation of community members. Please prayerfully consider how you can share your gifts with those in need. Complete an interest survey, located in the kiosk and share the love of God through service to your neighbor.

Fundraising The Link is forming a fundraising committee to plan for sustainable funding sources- this will include looking at grant opportunities and planning a signature fundraising event on an annual basis. If this is something you are interested in, please let us know!

For more information, contact Michelle Peterson at 796-2522 or 894-1681

"Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other"

Weekly Hospitality Ministries

	Feb 7	Feb 14	Feb 21	Feb 28
Greeters	Knisely/Laughlin	Wiegmann/Leither	Maurice/Kaiser	Ruhl/Wosmek
Ushers	Palmer	Pflipsen	Rohloff	B Erickson
Readers	Bergstrom	Bonnema	Broman	
Coffee	Blokzyl/Broman	Evermanns/Engelsons	Feeken/Wosmek	Kaiser/M.Hanson
Nursery	A. Knisely	J.Baker	B.Kluver	Bonnema

*If you are not available to serve when you are scheduled,
please ask another person to fill in for you.
Thank you for your willingness to serve!*

	March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
Greeters	Wolff/D.Wright	Barker/Zaske	Baker/Bergstrom	Wosmek/Bonnema
Ushers	Solheid	Wolff	Springman	Wiegmann
Readers	Dean	Springman	J.Duke	Evenson
Coffee	O'Brien/Leither	M.Kluver/C.Kluver	Fortney/Denz	Ostlund/Redington
Nursery	K.Rohloff	J.Fortney	C.Duke	A.Knisely

February Birthdays

Alec Nibaur 2nd	Brian Wolff 17th
Wanda Zaske 2nd	Abbey Knisely 18th
Diane Vissor 3rd	JoAnn Wright 18th
Sue Wiegmann 3rd	MaryJane Young 22nd
Joy Baker 4th	Richard Kelvington 24th
Kyle Denz 6th	Carol Underland 24th
Faith Duke 8th	Dylan Magnuson 25th
Brody Duke 11th	Heather Ochsner 25th
Dan Wiegmann 13th	Jordan Peterson 28th
Jaden Nelson 17th	



February Anniversaries

Dan & Sue Wiegmann 9th
Jim & Pat Solheid 18th

Have a Happy Day!

*****Make sure to check the kiosk for community wide events!*****

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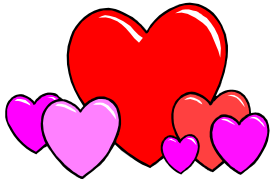
Bring the whole family!

Tickets available from all Cross Roads Youth.

\$10 - 13 and older

\$5 - ages 6-12

Free - 5 and under



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