



# Cross Currents



Volume 5 Issue 117

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

May 2014

## Movies are rarely good sources for truth...



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Movies are great entertainment. However, they rarely are good sources for truth. Even documentaries are not necessarily factual and even when they are; they tend to be selectively factual to offer a particular interpretation of the "facts." Buyer, or viewer, beware... even or perhaps especially when viewing movies (or reading books) that are purportedly Christian and Scriptural.

Two recent movies serve as good examples, "Noah" (released March 28, 2014) and "Heaven Is For Real" (released Holy Week, 2014). Since I have not watched either (and I don't intend to), I cannot offer a review. However, I would offer a caution and an encouragement.

First, a caution: Don't base your faith in Christ or the authority of Scripture on movies.

Even a cursory parsing of the carefully worded explanation on the homepage of the official website for "Noah" should dispel any notion that the movie could serve as an anchor for our Christian faith or knowledge of Noah: *"The film is inspired by the story of Noah. While artistic license has been taken, we believe that this film is true to the essence, values and integrity of a story that is a cornerstone of faith for millions of people worldwide. The biblical story of Noah can be found in the book of Genesis."*<sup>(1)</sup>

Darren Aronofsky, the director, bluntly stated in a Washington Post interview, *"My job is first and foremost as an entertainer. I entertain people, and I try to make films that are exciting, and fun, and emotional, and moving, and filled with action, and that's all I care about."*<sup>(2)</sup> He also reportedly told a staff writer of The New Yorker that "Noah" is *"the least Biblical film ever made."*<sup>(3)</sup>

Dr. Albert Mohler offers an incisive review of "Noah" on his website.<sup>(4)</sup>

"Heaven Is For Real" is based on a book with the same title published in 2010. The book is narrated by Pastor Todd Burpo, who recounts the details of a journey to and from heaven that his son, Colton, claimed to have made during a near-death experience following a ruptured appendix in 2003, when he was not yet 4 years old.

The book (as does, I assume, the movie) makes substantial claims about heaven and God that go beyond what Scripture reveals but which are presented as definitive truth that substantiate Scripture and that the readers (and presumably viewers of the movie) are supposed to take at face value. (Cf. Isaiah 6:1-4, Ezekiel 1 & 10, Revelation 4-6)

Descriptions of what Colton saw in heaven are posted on the Burpos' "Heaven Is For Real Ministry" website, including the following: *"Colton describes God the Father... He remembers that the angel Gabriel is the being in heaven that most resembles God the Father. The colors Gabriel had on his clothes were the same colors that God the Father wore. Also, God the Father had wings just like Gabriel did."*<sup>(5)</sup> He also describes Jesus' physical characteristics.

We don't dispute that heaven is for real. Scripture says it's real. However, "Heaven Is For Real" — whether the book or movie version — is a poor, flimsy foundation for our faith, understanding, and hope.

Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) gives an insightful review of the book.<sup>(6)</sup>

Now the encouragement: Enjoy movies, including "Noah" and "Heaven Is For Real," for what they are — entertainment. But for truth on Noah and the flood, heaven, God, salvation, Word and Sacrament, Christ's incarnation, birth, childhood, life, crucifix-

(Continued on page 2, Movies)

*Movies (Continued from page 1)*

ion, resurrection, ascension, and second coming, etc., go to the source of all truth: Scripture, the Word of God.

<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty... <sup>19</sup>And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2Peter 1:16, 19-21)

<sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2Tim 3:14-17)

These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

\*\*\*\*\*

- (1) noahmovie.com
- (2) washingtonpost.com/national/religion/a-conversation-with-noah-director-darren-aronofsky/2014/03/28/8c469388-b46d-11e3-b899-20667de76985\_story.html
- (3) newyorker.com/services/presscenter/2014/03/17/140317pr\_press\_release
- (4) albertmohler.com/2014/03/31/drowning-in-distortion-darren-aronofskys-noah/
- (5) heavenlive.org/about/faq
- (6) concordiatheology.org/2011/05/heaven-is-for-real/
- (7) See also the review at: gty.org/blog/B121018

**RUMMAGE SALE**

**Saturday, June 7**  
**Holy Cross Lutheran**  
**Parish Hall**



Please start saving your "not so wanted" items....All items must be clean and in working order. No clothing please. You can bring your items to the Parish Hall beginning on Wednesday, June 4. All money earned will go toward the parking lot fund. Any questions, please contact Melarie Seidel, 672-8660. More details to follow so **START SAVING YOUR UNWANTED TREASURES!**

**"OUTREACH NOTICE"**

For anyone who is interested in helping with OUTREACH:

Please come to the parish hall kitchen as soon as service is over to see if we need extra help.

Thank you very much, Pat Easby

**May Choir Schedule**  
**rehearsals on**  
**May 6, 13, & 20**

**May Birthdays**

- 2 Janet O'Leary
- 8 Cherylene Brueckner
- 9 Frances Maurer
- 12 Revia Maurer
- 17 Nick Syrovatka
- 21 Joyce Liebe
- 24 Finnley Roesti

**May Anniversaries**

- 18 Michael & Linda Pass
- 19 Jack & Pat Easby
- 25 Dennis & Carol Lau
- 26 Eric & Chris Roman

**Those who are in need of our prayers**

**Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter, Lloyce Logan** (Judy West sister-in-law), **Joy Parker** (Gayle Bothe's sister), **Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor** (Karen Gamble's mother), **Robert & David Grandt** (Liz Aduan's brothers), **Pauline Fudge** (Liz Aduan's Aunt-heart failure) **Inge Stone, Elizabeth Bothé** (Gayle Bothe's granddaughter-non-churched), **Abbi and Alex Roman, June Stewart** (Judy West's friend), **Jan Tammiste** (Roman's friend), **Betty and Cal Kallsen, Billy Godsey** (healing), **Jeannine Godsey** (inner peace), **Karen and Gary Cox** (Judy West's friends-cancer), **Steven Liedtke** (healing), **Esther Lacey and Bernice Aiman** (Violet Griffin's sisters-elder care), **Matt Goodshaw** (Brueckner's family friend-continued multiple melanoma treatments), **Philip Aduan** (hand-healing, surgery), **Ken and Kathy Horneck** (Ann Caruso's brother in-law-proper treatment, salvation), **Maddie Conklin** (Judy West's friend-lung, pancreatic cancer), **Bob Oliver** (surgery-healing), **Herbert and Clara Huppert** (healing, guidance), **Don Roman** (physical and spiritual healing), **1 yr. Blake Francis** (Bill Luker's grand nephew-cancer), **Adeline** (Carol Chu's co-workers premature baby-medical problems), **Bill Bothe** (cancer-guidance for treatment plan), **Herb Borchers** (restoration, strength), **Lee Rankin** (Jennifer's mom-healing), **Eyona Pargman** (broken wrist), **Mark Paulson** (Tina Voss' father-bypass surgery).

***Chaplains among the armed forces and those serving in the military:***

**Cpl. Michael Dawers** (Bill Koch's grandson-Afghanistan), **Taylor Bothe-Yates** (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece, 2nd tour Afghanistan), **Jordan Bennett and Capt. Richard Hill** (Violet Griffin's great nephews), **Cadet Megan Gemar, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl** (P.O.W. in Afghanistan), **Warrant Officer Donna Cheek**, (Carrie Kroeger's cousin-Afghan), **PFC Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), **P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s.**



## PARKING LOT UPDATE

**MAY 1, 2014**

by Jean Eissner

The paper bin at the end of the parking lot was removed April 15. There is a paper recycle bin (blue) near the trash bin area. This is for Church use only. PLEASE PLACE **ONLY** CLEAN PAPER AND CARDBOARD in this bin – no plastic. If there are paper products that contain food residue, they are to be disposed of in the trash bin.

The committee has been in contact with PG & E and the City of Concord regarding the tree removal by PG & E. There has been a number of articles in the CONTRA COSTA TIMES regarding the discussions between cities and PG & E. There are issues that need to be resolved before the removal takes place. We are hopeful this will not be a setback to our timeline.

For the month of March \$564 was added to the restricted fund for the parking lot.

At the April 21, 2014 meeting the Church Council approved the removal of the pine tree near the parking lot entrance. The recommendation was made because of dead branches. Dead wood in this tree is an ongoing problem. Additionally, the tree roots are raising the driveway section of the asphalt and causing a safety issue.

Feel free to contact any member of the committee if you have any questions.

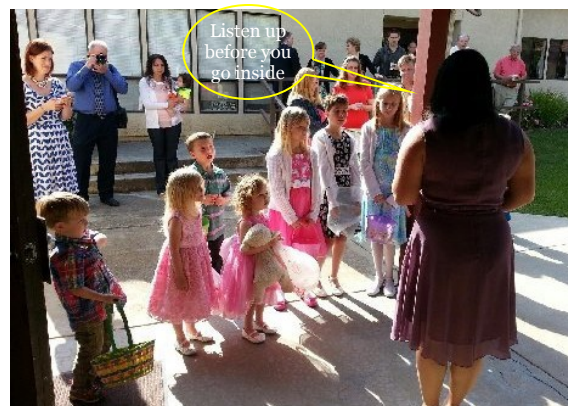


Committee Members (l-r): Joe Odrzywolski, Gregg Syrovatka, Jean Eissner, Allen Brueckner & George Oatis



APRIL 20, 2014

## EASTER EGG HUNT IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY



## Home from spring break

Christopher Chu spent a day working on the church ground.

—Thanks, Chris!



## Nifty Fifty's May 2014 Outings

### **1. Contra Costa Water District Tour May 9th**

The first is the Tour on May 9th to the Contra Costa Water District. We now have 8 going it seems that Nancy Hoffman & her husband Walter called and talked with Jim Freschi and made reservation some time ago. The reason I'm writing again about this trip is that there is a second trip (as previously stated on May 23. The more I learn about the trip the more interesting it sounds ...The beautiful Marina which was closed when they raised the dam and expanded the Los Vaqueros reservoir is now open and if the weather is favorable they'll include a boat ride during our visit. Learn how the CCWD diverts water from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta and stores it in the Los Vaqueros Reservoir and conveys it in the Contra Costa Canal to a treatment plant in the service area. The tour includes a stop at the Randall-Bold Treatment plant in Oakley to see how they make your water clean and healthy The Tour also includes a free lunch...I believe the Tour is very accommodating so if you are really interested in some area they will take the time to discuss it..Sounds like an all day outing...Those going on the 9th should meet at the CCWD Concord District Center 1331 Concord Ave Concord, CA at 7:45 AM...not at the Church.

*Our Second Outing is lunch at the*

### **2. New Mecca Mexican Restaurant Friday, May 23 2014**

I've been looking for a good Mexican restaurant ever since the Acapulco closed in Alameda and when I reported on Senior Activities at our Council meeting our President Mike Liebe suggested the New Mecca Restaurant located at 324 Railroad Ave Pittsburg and several others agreed. I went to eat there on Tue April 22nd and finally found a good reasonable

Mexican Restaurant often go to Mac-Old-House in Antioch and I have to say this fits in the same category Not fancy but clean with good food and reasonable. I like a Chili Verde Burrito (Pork) with only Pork inside not with Rice and beans. They had a special for \$9.50 of a Chili Verde Burrito and Beef Enchilada rice and beans. I don't like rice so they doubled up on the refried beans. It came piping hot with only Pork inside the Burrito and a Beef Enchilada loaded with just Beef the plate was heaped with Refried Beans drenched with Cheese Great. When I first sat down they came with two bowls of dip...One was their famous bean dip drowned with Cheese...What you would normally expect when you pay for an appetizer. The second bowl was a really hot dip too hot for me but I ate most of the bean dip. They also had a bowl of chips and a bowl of (it looked like flower Tortilla chips). I didn't care for them..I talked with Cheryl and she said the Mecca had catered their luncheon and that they were noted for good food and have been there for many years...Anyway that's where we are going on Friday May 23rd and plan to eat at 1:00PM Meet at church at 12:15 and leave at 12:30. Come and enjoy an outing with Christian friends; you don't have to be 50 to come.

For those who may want to go on the May 23 tour, sorry it is full. If interested in future tours, call Jim Freschi at 925 688 8175 to reserve space for the September tour.

### **GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT AT LUCILLE'S**

BY MARVIN KREITZ



There was only Trudy, Tim Hintz and I that went to Lucille's Smokehouse Restaurant at the Sun valley Mall on March 27 and to say I was disappointed is putting it mildly .

We all had a sandwich and a cup of soup. The soup was delicious but cold, but we all figured we could bear up under it . Tim and I ordered the pulled pork sandwiches. Tim's came on a slice of bread; mine came on a bun which was mostly air and the pork was greasy so my bun disintegrated and the grease ran down my hands. I had ordered French Fries (they only came in shoestrings) and they were actually cold. I called the waitress over and she very graciously took them back and brought a new order which was just as cold as those I had sent back.

The service was good but the food was one star or 180 degrees from when Gregg and Cheryl took the family there for Brittany's Birthday. All I can say is there is plenty of other places to eat...

## Women of Holy Cross

### All Church Dinner Night Out Tuesday, June 17

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 17, 2014, which is the date for this year's Dinner Night Out. This is an all church event. Everyone is invited. We've reserved a large private room at the Oakhurst Country Club including the use of a balcony for those of you who would like to enjoy the view. Dinner will begin at 6:00pm. The menu is as follows: Pasta Bar consisting of two different kinds of pasta: 1) Meat Sauce with Spinach, and 2) Vegetable Alfredo; 2 different salads: Caesar and Mixed Greens; warm herb bread rolls and butter; iced tea, hot tea, coffee with dessert. The cost is \$16.00 per person.

The parking is ample with a short walk to the entrance and our room. This is a great opportunity for all of us to enjoy a delicious meal together and also have plenty of time to visit. Please sign up in the Parish Hall and give your check (made out to Women of Holy Cross) to Marilyn Neumann or Melarie Seidel.

**Monday, April 14, 2014**

submitted by Pat Easby

#### **A Striking, Successful Evening!**

Fourteen of us gathered at 6:30pm at a U-shaped table in the Parish Hall—we each wrote two real event-facts and one falsehood, thus the topic, **2"truths and 1 lie"**!

We took turns reading our list—the rest had to guess which one of the three on the list was the lie. We had many laughs...what a hoot it was! There was a lot of sharing... even going back to the 1940's, antique cars, trips taken, and numerous different subjects came up. It was truly one of the most enjoyable times I've experienced in a while. Getting to know our sisters in Christ is a real blessing and highlight for the night. We have a wonderful and exciting group of ladies at Holy Cross. Then came another big hit; refreshments and dessert provided by Joyce and Cherylene, our hostesses for the evening. They served a light green beverage and prepared 'hot dogs and hamburgers' made from cookies—that were adorably decorated—very clever and yummy! This evening was a Big Hit from start to finish. Thank you everyone who participated, and so sorry for those who didn't make it.

*"Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them....Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other."*  
Romans 12:9

### Happy Birthday to All

Come, Everyone Come, to an  
All Church Birthday Party and Potluck!

**Sunday, May 18**

Have you ever wondered if you share a birthday with someone from Holy Cross?

Come to this fun event and find out!

Come and sit at your birthday month table, have lunch and cake - and get to know others.

Come and bring a main dish or hearty salad that you would serve for a Special Celebration in your own home. Please identify the dish with its name, origin and your name!

Come and celebrate our lives.

**Please Sign Up Now!**



### **TOGETHER ONE STEP AT A TIME**

The Women of Holy Cross have donated their profits from the Christmas 'Corner Cafe' for the past two years, with that they *started* the Parking Lot Fund, which totaled \$2,000.00.

Joyce Liebe donated all the monies she accumulated from her amazing "Book Fare" sales, which amounted to \$1,000...Sensational!

Mike and Tina Voss donated 10% of their profits to our Parking Lot Fund received from sales of products from their presentation on "Women's Safety" at a WoHC general meeting.

Watch the future issues in the Cross Currents for updates on the *Parking Lot Fund* and opportunities to help it grow. Together, one step at a time, *we can make this happen.*

Ash Wednesday Supper we had a free will offering. 100% of your donations went toward the parking lot fund.

Melarie hosted a Palm Sunday Dinner at noon along with Dorothy Taylers 99<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Another \$400 was donated to the Parking Lot Fund. Thank you to all that so generously donated.

*READ Nehemiah 1 6:16 the builders of the wall of Jerusalem. Side by Side with the help of God, the wall was completed...*

We're looking forward to A parking lot with: bright white stripes, convenient handicap parking spots, designated parking, a safe walk on a smooth surface (no more holes, cracks or bumps) and pleasing to our eyes! Help us achieve our goals, one step at a time, working together with the help of God....As it is written.

*Dear brothers and sisters... we are thankful that your faith is flourishing and you are all growing in love for each other. 2 Thessalonians 1:3 NLT*

### Dorothy Taylor's 99th Birthday Party

On Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church a dinner was held to celebrate Dorothy Taylor's 99th birthday. Her children Karen Gamble and Donald Hoofring along with their spouses were in attendance in addition to many other family members as well as members of the congregation.



Dorothy Boyer Hoofring Taylor was born on April 13, 1915 in Vandergrift, PA. She has nine grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter.

Dorothy's husband, Eric Hoofring, was the foreman for the original church, which now serves as the Education Wing for Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Dorothy and her family were Charter Members of Holy Cross. —Marilyn Neumann

#### Address Correction

Please change the street number for Ron and Karen Gamble to **2853** Bellflower Drive.

### Baptism Announcement



Gregg and Cheryl Syrovatka's grandson, 7 months old Cooper Azzez James Syrovatka, was baptized during Sunday service on April 6, 2014 at Holy Cross. He was pictured here with his parents Randy and Aimee Syrovatka and 5 years old brother, Brycen Lee.

### Confirmation Announcements

Sue and Ken Reiter announce that their daughters

**Amber Lyn Reiter**  
and  
**Kaytlin Jo Reiter**

received the rite of confirmation on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut Creek CA

### Condolences to the Means Family

Former member, **Merle Means** was called home to the Lord on Wednesday evening, April 23, 2014.

Our condolences to his wife Helen and the Means family.

For those who'd like to send Helen a card, here is her address:

Montecito  
4756 Clayton Rd. #148  
Concord, CA 94521

Note: Memorial Service is pending.

### Honoring 2014 Graduates



Anyone graduating from high school or college in your family? If you'd like, please email Grace a blurb and a photo of your recent graduate for the June Cross Currents by May 22.

### Conversation with Marilyn Neumann and Ann Caruso



Knowing that she will be busy with the arrival of her grand child in the later part of the April, Marilyn Neumann and Ann Caruso scheduled a "Getting to Know You" conversation with Grace Gin on Wednesday, April 9. What good timing, Grace was summoned early the next day to go to Lucille Packard Children's Hospital to await the birth of her first grand child.

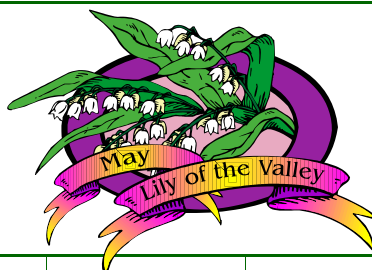
Grace became a grandma that evening with the arrival of her little 5 lbs. 10 oz. grand daughter, Phoebe Gin Lum. Even though the baby arrived 2 weeks early, Mommy Kathryn and baby were both doing well. Praise God! —Grace Gin



Phoebe currently weighs  
6 lbs. 13 oz.



May



2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> 9:30a CWCV Craft	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Mite Box/Hat Day</b> <b>9:30a Worship / Communion</b> 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	<b>5</b> 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 2:15p WoHC Board Meeting 7p Boy Scout (L)	<b>6</b> 7:15p Choir Rehearsal  <i>Pastor at District Conference in Rohnert</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30a CWCV Craft	<b>9</b> NFS CCWD Tour, <b>meet there at</b> 7:45a	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Mother's Day</b> <b>9:30am Worship</b> 11am Sunday School/ Bible Study 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	<b>12</b> 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30p WoHC General Meeting 7p Boy Scout (H)	<b>13</b> 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 1p Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study (H)	<b>15</b> 9:30a CWCV Craft	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>9:30a Worship / Communion</b> 11a Sunday School/ Bible Study Noon Congregational Birthday Luncheon 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	<b>19</b> 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 1p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (H)	<b>20</b> 7:15p Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Elders	<b>21</b> 7p Bible Study (H)	<b>22</b> 9:30a CWCV Craft	<b>23</b> 12:15p NFS Carpool-Lunch out	<b>24</b>
<b>25 Outreach Sunday</b> <b>9:30am Worship</b> 11am Sunday School/ Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	<b>26</b> 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Boy Scout (H)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7p Bible Study (H)	<b>29</b> 9:30a CWCV Craft	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

(cl= Choir Loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room)



**Holy Cross Lutheran  
Church, LCMS**

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Concord, CA 94521



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holycrossconcord@sbcglobal.net  
Www.ctsmemberconnect.net

**Pastor: Bill Chu**

President: Mike Liebe  
Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka  
Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger  
Financial Secretary: Scott Stadler  
Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka  
Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker  
Elders: Bill Riechman, George Oatis, John  
Coyne, Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Sue Reiter  
Newsletter Editor: Grace Gin

**Office Hours:** M-F 9 AM-12:30 PM

**Worship Schedule:**

Sunday Service 9:30AM  
Communion 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays  
Adults Bible Studies 11AM (Library & Conf. Rm)  
Sunday School 11AM

**Week Day Bible Study Schedule:**

Monday (Ladies) 12:30PM Conference Room  
Wednesday (all) 7:00PM Parish Hall

**Choir Rehearsal:**

Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM

**Outreach:**

Fourth Sunday of each month

**Publication Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday  
May 2014 Cross Currents: April 21, 2014