

Cross Currents



Volume 3 Issue 115

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

March 2014

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"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1



Perhaps because of my own biases, I was annoyed by some of evolutionist Bill Nye's (a.k.a. The Science Guy") comments and assertions that I perceived to be snarky and derisive during his February 4 debate with creationist and president and founder of Answers in Genesis-U.S. and the Creation Museum, Ken Ham.

For example, Nye repeatedly described and dismissed the Bible, which Ham cited as the basis and source of his belief in the six-day creation, as a book written thousands of years ago and translated into American English, implying that the Bible is neither authoritative nor reliable. Creationism. based on Genesis. "magical" and "absolutely not viable," Nye said. He referred to the biblical account of Noah's ark as fantasy and unreasonable: "As far as Noah being an extraordinary shipwright, I'm extraordinarily skeptical... it's very reasonable, perhaps, to you that Noah had superpowers and was able to build this extraordinary craft with seven family members, but to me, this is just not reasonable." Nye also set up false dichotomies to imply that creationists do not engage in "real" science or use technology.

Perhaps what I found most annoying was — again what I perceived to be — Bill Nye's air of superiority as he styled himself an open-minded truth-seeker willing to go wherever the evidence leads; in fact, when asked if there was anything that would cause him to change his mind about creationism, he said that he "would need just one piece of evidence" and after listing a few things, concluded, "Bring on any of those things and you would

change me immediately." However, the catch to this "truth-seeking openmindedness" is that Nye is unconditionally committed — though he is unable or unwilling to admit that he is unconditionally committed — to a naturalist worldview that is founded on and anchored in human reason, makes such evidence impossible, and does not allow for divine intervention, meaning that in the end, human reason, or man himself, is God.

Dr. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptism Seminary, aptly noted in his review of the debate, "The problem with human reason is that it, along with every aspect of humanity, was corrupted by the fall." We need only read the news headlines to see the atrocities of fallen human reason (cf. Romans 1:18-32). [I encourage you to read Dr. Mohler's article, "Bill Nye's Reasonable Man — The Central Worldview Clash of the Ham-Nve Debate," at albertmohler.com. I also encourage you watch the Bill Nye-Ken Ham debate on youtube.com or other websites to learn the arguments on both sides of the debate.]

For all our "discoveries" and advances in science and technology, natural processes, apart from divine revelation from the Triune God, can neither explain such things as the origin or laws of logic (or human reason), as Ham pointed out, nor account for sin. Human reason or human wisdom — apart from God's grace in Jesus Christ — certainly can-

(Continued on page 2, Creation)

Creation

(Continued from page 1)

not understand that God intervened with the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, as the answer to sin and death.

Human reason is a gift from God: human reason is not God. Apart from God's Word, human reason can take us only so far in our quest to know and understand. It cannot answer the essential questions about the origin of life or explain sin and eternal death; it certainly offers no satisfactory solution to our problem of sin and death and our need for salvation, which can be found in Christ and Christ alone. Indeed. Christ crucified for the sin of the world and for our salvation is foolishness to unbelievers, but to those who trust in Jesus as Savior by God's grace, Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God, and the "the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1Corinthians 1:23-25)

The Biblical worldview and assertion on creation — and therefore should be our worldview and belief as Christians, sinners saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus — are that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1) and that the earth is the Lord's the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein (Psalm 24). Our knowledge and understanding of the truth about who we are, what we are, and where we are going ultimately must come also from the Word of God who so loved the world that He gave His Son, crucified and risen for our salvation. 🕆



Ash Wednesday March 5, 2014

Dinner at 5:45 p.m.

Hosted by WoHC. Please sign up if you

plan to come. We will have a free will offering, proceeds toward parking lot fund.

For those of you who signed up to help or bring something, please don't forget! Thanks.

Service at 7:00 p.m. with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

For the Wednesday evenings during Lent, we will not be having soup suppers. We will continue our Bible study on Genesis on March 12, 19 and 26.

Easter is on Sunday April 20 this year.



Anniversary Luncheon

Come help us celebrate Jack and

Doris Mortenson's 70th Wedding Anniversary luncheon on **Sunday, March 30th 11:45** AM.

No gifts please, but a card would be a nice wish for them. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many places need to be set at the tables. We look forward to you attending!



Confirmation class: March 2, 9, 16, 30

Confirmation Oral Exams: March 23

March Choir Schedule

Rehearsals at 7:15PM March 4*, 11 and 18

*Rehearsal at 7PM on March 4.



March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

- Terry Maurer
 Idalene Stadler
- 6 Cal Kallsen
- 11 Kamryn Coyne Sue Reiter
- 12 Pastor Chu
- 14 Dave Collett
- 18 Rachel Gemar
- 23 Jean Eissner
- 24 Chery Jakel-Collett
- 24 Jack Mortenson
- 25 Nathan Pass
- 30 Doris Mortenson

Anniversaries

- 4 Eric Ingle & Dr. Rayna Kamerzell
- 7 Rev. Bob and Gerda Koch
- 19 Glen and Susan Stenson
- 26 Jack and Doris Mortenson

Welcomed into membership

We welcome the Scouten family: Howard and Judy, and daughter, Emily into membership by transfer on February 9, 2014.

New Address:

Cpl. Mike Dawers (Bill Koch's Grandson) R40G IMEF Unit 42190 FPO AP 96427-2190

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-nonchurched), 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 friendscancer), Bill Kreitz (Cheryl's brother-cancer treatments), 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), Gayle Bothe (healing-shoulder), 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), Trudy Huenninghaus (healing-knee surgery), Bill Bothe (elevated PSA), Herb Borchers (restoration, strength).

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 grandniece, 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-Afghanistan), PFC Kevin Hayworth (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s.

CHURCH PARKING LOT

At the meeting February 9, 2014 the voters approved to proceed with the parking lot repair project. There will



be a lot of "behind the scenes" work that has to be done before the work can be done. One thing that will take place is the removal of 3 trees by PG & E (at their expense), 2 of which are in the middle of the parking lot. We have no control over their timetable.

In the meantime research will be done to determine the following:

- Requirements by the City of Concord (i.e. What permits are required etc.)
- What method of repair is best for our property taking into consideration the weight of vehicles which must have access, drainage, safety and other issues that may arise during the planning.
- "Scope of the Work" can we do it all at once or in stages?
- Meeting with and receiving bids from qualified contractors

The committee is recommending removing the recycle bin at the end of the parking lot. At one time we received income from the paper deposited there. This is no longer the case. The truck is damaging the surface.

The time projection for performing the actual work is in the fall because of the preliminary planning as well as summer months are the busiest for paving contractors.

The current available funds designated for this project are \$24,981.41 in the parking lot fund and \$24,901.53 in memorial funds that have been recommended for transfer to the parking lot fund. At best we think this is approximately 2/3 of the total cost.

The committee members are: Allen Brueckner, Jean Eissner, George Oatis, Joe Odrzywolski, and Gregg Syrovatka, . Feel free to contact one of them if you have questions or concerns.—Jean Eissner

Nifty Fifty Seniors' Corner...

Activities for March 2014

Grand Island Mansion Sunday Brunch, Mar. 9th

The Historic Grand Island Mansion for Sunday Brunch on Sunday March 9th is our first planned outing They invite you to tour the Mansion and enjoy their fabulous buffet champagne brunch. Bunch is served from 10:30 to 2:00 and reservations are required. The Menu as follows: Freshly baked Foccacia bread, rolls and scones. Coffee, Tea, Milk and Mimosa, Mixed Green Salad with pears, mandarin oranges, pecans and goat cheese, Mediterranean Orzo Pasta Salad, Herb seasoned Vegetables, Red and Yukon Potato Hash, Fresh Seasonal Fruit with yogurt and toasted Walnuts, Eggs Benedict, Italian Toast, Fresh Mushroom and Asiago Cheese Crepes, Chef Inspired Frittata, Oven Roasted Herb Seasoned Prime Rib and Gourmet Dessert Buffet. Cost is \$29.95 Tax & Gratuity not included. I would say the cost would be around \$40.00. The Mansion and grounds are open for public viewing during the famous Sunday Brunch.

The Grant Island Mansion and Spa is located at 13415 Grand Island Road, Walnut Grove, CA 95690. It is a bit further than Locke. We plan to leave after the Service, say 11AM. The drive is estimated to be 45 minutes which will give us two hours for Brunch and time to view the Mansion. I know this is an expensive outing, so we plan a second lunch...

Lunch at Lucille's Smokehouse, Mar. 27

Our second outing is lunch at Lucille's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que located at 486 Sunvalley Mall, Concord Ca. Lucille's is located where Fresh Choice used to be. Gregg and Cheryl took our family there for Randy and Brittany's Birthday. The Ribs were lean and moist and the pulled pork was crusty. The chicken was seasoned just right; best of all, we had tons of food to take home.

A review wrote, "Went there for dinner around 7:00. We were seated in about 15 minutes so that made us happy. I always order the baby back ribs at a BBQ restaurant but was hesitant because of my experience with dry ribs but we decided to go ahead....I was thrilled when I could pull the meat off the bone. I knew right away they were cooked perfectly! We also ordered a Mac and cheese which came bubbling with cheese and seasoning. I would definitely give this place a try. The food is fantastic and this business really cares about the quality of the food and the experience of its patrons".

What More can I say, but plan on going to Lucille's for lunch on March 27th at 1:00 PM Sign up in the Social Hall so we know how many to plan on....

LUNCH AT THE BRASS DOOR RESTAURANT 1/23/14

We had seven attend our lunch at the Brass Door Restaurant in January. This is such a really great refined up scale restaurant that I always enjoy going to. Some close friends Bob and Pat Nicholson, who live just off Crow Canyon road were delighted to join our church group for our outing. The Brass Door has been a San Ramon landmark since 1955 and it seems as if I have been eating there and enjoying the rustic yet elegant décor since I was transferred to the West Coast in 1958. I used to go there for dinner now I mostly go to lunch. They have dinners listed on the lunch menu that include senior portions at reduced rates which include soup or salad and dessert. One of my favorite is



the ground round sirloin of beef (9 ozs) with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable salad and dessert for \$13.50. When I write about it I can almost taste it. Don't miss out on our next outing...

Lunch at Lazy Dog's ~ 1/27/14

We had nine that went to our outing at the new Lazy Dog Restaurant that took the place of El Torito Mexican Restaurant in the Willows Shopping Center. I called that day to make reservation but



(Continued on page 5, Lazy Dog's)

Lazy Dog's (Continued from page 4)

they only took reservations the day before. Fortunately when I arrived 25 minutes to 1:00, Dave and Ann Caruso were already there and they had made reservations and we didn't have long to wait. The place was crowded but everything seemed to go in an organized fashion. Jack Mortensen sat next to Dave Caruso both being flyers and I just sat back and listed to Dave fly a P38 ? and how it chattered when it went into a turn ...



The way Dave told it I could envision holding the controls. Dave of course was a pilot and Jack was an instructor so they had a lot in common...Ann Caruso and Marilyn Newman (who are involved in writing the history of members of our church) were talking up a storm. Bill Luker, Tim Hintz and Bill Reichmann were busy at the other end of the table and Doris and I just enjoyed listening. Jack & I had Pastrami and fries and I'm not sure what everybody else had, but I 'm sure they enjoyed it. Camaraderie is what going out to lunch is all about! Try it You'll like it....-Marv Kreitz

"...Let **PRAYER** be the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening!! ..."

WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS

Human Care Projects are made possible by our congregation.

PLEASE SAVE all of your greeting cards(holiday, birthday, valentine, etc) for St. Jude's Ranch for . want the cards in tact, so please do not cut them, personal writing is on them...cross it out if you wish. Please deposit your cards on the table in the Parish Hall entrance. box is provided for the cards. THANK YOU your participation in helping the • General Meeting, April 14, Children.

We also collect Pop tops (aluminum tops from soda, soups, etc), Empty Printer Cartridges, Canceled Postage Stamps, all Eyeglasses (with frame or without), Old Cell phones, General Mills Box tops and Campbell Labels. There are boxes provided for all items in the Parish Hall.

Upcoming WoHC Events:

- Board meeting Monday, March 3, 2:15PM
- General meeting -Monday, March LWML Convention May 2 4, 10. 6:30 PM. Election of officers and Bible Study by Pastor Chu. It'll be a pleasant & informative evening, with friendship and dessert. Don't miss it...

Hostesses: Marilyn & Dee

- Spring Rally Saturday, March 29, 2014 at First Lutheran Church. 4000 Concord Blvd, Concord, CA 94521, (925)671-9942
 - * Theme: Shield of Faith: A love story that will last a life time despite our physical limitations. " ... take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." Ephesians 6:16
 - * Speaker Diana McFarling, of Stonecroft Ministries, will tell us how she found victory over circumstances as she lives with Multiple Sclerosis. She shares how she came to find peace de-

- spite the reality of life in a wheelchair.
- * Registration begins at 8:30 am. \$10 donation included a continental breakfast and luncheon.
- * RSVP to Barbara.mejoyous@gmail.com or 925-687-7726
- * Child care will be provided for a \$5 donation
- 6:30pm. "Show and Tell" Join us and get to know more about our WoHC Sisters in Christ. We invite you to come and share something about yourself: your interests, life experiences, your faith story, unique talents, whatever you feel moved to share. Or if you prefer - come, listen, and learn something new about the other WoHC. Plus afterwards, we all will share dessert!
- 2014.
 - * Theme: Stand Firm. Stand Victorious!
 - * Business Matters: proposed 2014-2016 Mission Grants: Officer & Counselor Candi-
 - * Registration Forms on bulletin board next to office, or ask Cherylene. Registration Fee is \$75. Deadline: 4/18/14.
 - * WoHC delegate is Joyce Liebe, alternate is Pat Easby.
 - * More Info may be found on the WoHC bulletin board.
 - * INGATHERING:
 - 1. Defenders of Freedom
 - 2. Sac. Violence Intervention **Program**

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COFFEE AND DONUT ~ THANK YOU

Each week after the worship service, there is always coffee and donuts ready for our fellowship time. Thank you to the individuals responsible for picking up the donuts early Sunday AM, making the coffee and drinks, plating, serving, smiling, chatting and cleaning up. Some of you have been doing this for us for around 20 yrs and we appreciate you: Mike Liebe, Pat Kroeger, Jean Eissner, Andrea Beutel, Liz Aduan, Linda Pass, Annalisa and Peter Liedke, Trina Godsey, Marlene Roberts, Ann and Dave Caruso, Marilyn and Herb, Claudia Gemar!!!

OREO COOKIE CAKE RECEIPE

- 1 (20 ounce) package Oreos
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 (16 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 teaspoon vanilla 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 3 cups milk
- 2 (3.5 ounce) packages instant pudding mix (I used 1 Vanilla & 1 Hershey's Special Dark Chocolate). Use 2 of what you prefer

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. Crush cookies into bite size pieces. Reserve 1 cup for top. Melt butter and mix with rest of cookies. Press into 9x13 pan. Put in freezer for 5 minutes.
- **2.** Blend 1/2 of the whipped topping, cream cheese, vanilla, and confectioners' sugar. Spread over crust and place cake back in freezer.
- **3.** Prepare instant pudding with the milk according to package directions then spread over top of cake (I swirled the vanilla and chocolate). Spread the remaining whipped topping on top of the pudding then sprinkle with the remaining cookies. Keep cake refrigerated.

SECRET PALS

Thank You to all who participate in our "secret pal" exchange. If you have not contacted or heard from your Secret Pal from 2013 – please do so. If you need to, contact Gayle Bothe, she has the names of the Secret Pals.

Have a great year getting to know your new 2014 Secret Pal. Pray for her daily, greet her when you see her, (don't tell her you are her secret pal), make conversation with her so you get to know her better,

remember her on special days. fun with this! Welcome and Thank you to the new ladies that signed up to be pals.



Convention Ingathering (Continued from page 5)

WoHC will set out 2 MARKED BOXES to collect the articles needed for the ingathering, they will be taken to the Convention in May.

1. Defenders of Freedom (Calif. Chapter)

They support all branches of the service by doing the following:

Support of each other, awareness & involvement; wounded serviceman, Star Families, helping families of deployed military, care packages to our troops, vets & their organizations, providing a hero's welcome at the airport to our men & women in uniform. PLEASE HELP FILL OUR BOXES.

ITEMS NEEDED: white socks, baby wipes, foot powder, deodorant., snack bars, & **Gift Cards** from Target, Walmart, grocery & gas cards. **NOTE:** Please give all gift cards directly to Cherylene Brueckner.

Sacramento violence intervention program (SVIP)

A hospital-based peer violence intervention program, helping injured youth & reducing involvement with criminal justice system. They work with youth in the schools, who are at-risk in violence, probation, etc.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR CARE BASKETS: travel sized toothbrush/paste, shampoo, hand lotion, Kleenex packets, soap, sanitary pads, washcloths, razor/shaving cream, antibacterial hand gels, socks, <u>Gift cards</u> from Target, Walmart, gas, groceries.

NOTE: Please give all gift cards directly to Cherylene Brueckner; WoHC President. Thank You.

There is detail Convention information on the WoHC Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall–feel free to check it out!

Questions: Contact Cherylene.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT...



March 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Mite Box /Hat Day 9:30a Worship / Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	3 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 2:15p WoHC Board Mtg 7p Boy Scout (H)	4 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	5 Ash Wednesday 5:45p Supper 7:00p Worship with Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion	6	7	8
9 Daylight-Saving Times 9:30am Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 11a Senior Brunch Outing 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	10 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30p WoHC General Meeting 7p Boy Scout (L)	11 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	12 1p Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study (H)	13	14	15
16 9:30a Worship / Communion 11am Sunday School/ Bible Study 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	17 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 1p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (H)	18 6:30p Elders 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	19 7p Bible Study (H)	20 Spring Begins	21	22
23 9:30a Worship 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 11a Outreach 12p Confirmation Exam 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	24 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 7p Boy Scout (H)	25	26 7p Bible Study (H)	27 1p Senior Lunch Out- ing	28	29 8:30a LWML Spring Zone Rally at First Lutheran
30 9:30am Worship / Communion 11am Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:45a Mortenson Luncheon 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	31 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Boy Scout (H)	Notes: cl= Choir Loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room				





Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS 1092 Alberta Way Concord, CA 94521 (925) 686-2000 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 Head Trustee: Allen Brueckner

Elders: Bill Riechman, George Oatis, John Coyne,

Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Sue Reiter Newsletter Editor: Grace Gin

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, 11:30AM

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

April 2014 Cross Currents: March 20, 2014

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