



CROSS CURRENTS



Volume 1, Issue 91

January 2012

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

Inside this issue:

Adopt-a-Tree, Thank you	2
Care Corner	2
Birthdays & Anniversary	2
NFS January Outing s	3
Caroling at Sunrise	3
Nifty Fifty Seniors write-	4
Women of Holy Cross President's Note	5
WoHC Activities Schedule	5
Non-progressive Christmas Dinner at DVC	5
Bulbs for Options for Women, LWML Zone 7	6
Cookie Bake-off Results	6
January 2012 Calendar	7

Happy
New Year!



JANUARY

A Fresh Start... in Christ

by Pastor Bill Chu

A new year offers a fresh start: throw out the old — old calendar, old plans, old year and with it past disappointments and failures — and start anew with new plans, new opportunities, new resolutions. Not that we can really “throw out the old” since more often than not, the old year’s troubles and problems carry into the new. Still, a new year offers a sense of hope that the future would be, or at least could be, brighter.

In Christ, Christians already have a new start, and more than just a new start — a new nature, a new self, given us in baptism. In fact, *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come* (2Corinthians 5). This “newness” is so complete that Paul describes it with the language of death and resurrection in connection to baptism (which he calls “*the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*” in Titus 3:5), where the Spirit gives us that new self:

³*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.* (Romans 6).

This is our state of being and it is a constant, bought and paid for with Christ’s substitutionary life and death.

We live our new life in Christ by the grace of God, though Paul speaks of this “living” as a conscious decision of our will: *So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.* (Romans 6:11). ²²*To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.* (Ephesians 4:22-24)

And because our old sinful nature, spurred by Satan, continues to wage war against our new nature that desires to please God, Paul gives a picture of this new life in Christ and what we are to do: ²⁵*...Having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor... ²⁶Be angry and do not sin... ²⁷give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work... so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up... that it may give*

(Continued on page 2, New Life)

New Life

(Continued from page 1)

grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

For all our hopes and dreams that the new year will be brighter than what we might have experienced in the old year, the future, for the most part, is not in our control.

What we do know is that in Christ, we are already new — a new creation — and by God's grace, we can resolve to live our new life in Christ by His grace given us in the means of grace. And we can be sure that whatever the future holds, the same omnipotence, grace, mercy, goodness, and abiding presence of God in Christ that carried us through 2011 will be with us in 2012.✠



Choir Schedule

Rehearsals at 7:15PM
January 10, 17, 24

Thank You!

The Women of Holy Cross want to thank all those who contributed to making Christmas a lot brighter for 17 people. Thank you to those who contributed money and also to those who took tags off the Adopt-A-Tree to purchase gifts. We were able to get gift cards for shoes and grocery for all the family members. A HUGE thank you to **Thrivent** for once again supporting our project. Thanks also to Joyce Liebe, Idalene Stadler, Cherylene Brueckner and Pam McGinnis for wrapping all the gifts.



January Birthdays

- 4 Wanda Schwartz
- 7 Eric Liebe
- Brittany Syrovatka Olson
- 14 Dennis Lau
- 15 Josh Coyne
- 16 Drew Oatis
- Christl Rose
- 22 Pat Kroeger
- 24 Wilma Burch
- Bill Riechmann
- 26 Grace Gin
- 27 Britney Liedtke
- 28 Marc Albano

Anniversary

- 10 Peter & Liz Aduan



*Remember these
Members & Friends
in Your Prayer*

Diana Butterfield, Eyona Pargman, Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter, Trudy Huenninghaus, AJ and Caylin Stanley, Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor, Abbi and Alex Roman

Wanda Armstrong, Ellen Stenson (Glenn Stenson's granddaughter), Bob Richards, Gary Cox, Lloyce Logan, Robert & David Grandt (Liz Aduan's brothers), Inge Stone, Elizabeth Bothé (Gayle Bothe's granddaughter), Kathy Kinsler, Joyce Parker (Gayle Bothe's sister), Debbie Hardesty (Marilyn's daughter-in-law), June Stewart Judy West's friend), Vivian Hock (Trudy Huenninghaus's friend), Clint Lau (Dennis' father), Leslie (Ann Caruso's friend), Will Voertman (Sue Reiter's brother)

Nifty Fifty Seniors January 2012 Outings

D. J. Bistro for Jan 5th 2012

Our first outing for January 2012 will be a trip to the D.J. Bistro a German restaurant where the food is outstanding. Wiener Snitzel, Bratwurst, Sauerbraten Red Cabbage and of course the glass of beer for those who want to imbibe. Beer of course comes in half liters which helps generate great discussions. The last time we were there we settled the oil spill in Alaska and in the Gulf of Mexico. Jack as former head of Clean Bay and Bill Godsey Geologist were acting leaders in the discussions. This is a fun outing and a great way to spend a day with fellow Christians -besides the food is exceptional and very reasonable. D.J. Bistro is located near the Park & Shop Center in Concord at 1825 Sutter St Concord 94520. It's very difficult to find as their sign is nonexistent and you have to be on top of it to find it. Many of our Seniors have been there, so if you want to go direct, go with someone who has been there otherwise. Meet at church at 12:15 leave at 12:30 and travel in a caravan. Lunch is planned for 1:00 Leave your cares behind you and relax and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow seniors at Holy Cross...Bring a friend!

The Exploratorium in SF for Jan. 19th

The main outing for the Nifty Fifties in Jan is a visit to the Exploratorium located in the landmark Palace of fine Arts building in San Francisco's Marina district off Highway 101 near the Golden Gate Bridge It's approximately 34 miles and takes about an hour, which should give us plenty of time to settle things while traveling, as we plan on driving. Too hard to travel by Bart and take buses. The cost of admittance is \$12.00 for seniors and there is lunch room in the museum where we plan on eating. The Exploratorium has over 1,000 exhibits of which 475 are participatory exhibits all of them made onsite, that mix science and art, so you can try you skills at learning and understanding. A variety of public programs, artists-in- residence projects, and demonstrations accompany all exhibit collections One such exhibit is Listen: Making sense of sound. Eavesdropping while you relax in a salon chair while listening to a conversation through your hair-dryer. On the museum main floor you can view a mouse cells beating like heart cells, worms glowing green with the implanted phosphorescent of a jellyfish gene, or a giant bubble where visitors can encase his or her head. Etc. If you have curious nature this is the trip for you. The museum is open 10:00 to 5:00 and we should plan on being there at 10:30 so we can visit before it gets crowded. Meet at church at 9:00 leave at 9:30. Those riding should plan on paying the bridge toll. This should be a great outing so bring a friend. Note: The reason we are going on Thur. Is that Wed is a free day and is usually is very crowded. Signup sheet is in Social Hall. ☺

Caroling at Sunrise Assisted Living

by Grace Gin

On a Sunday afternoon a week before Christmas, a group of fifteen HC carolers, Gregg, Cheryl, Marv, Herb, Marilyn, Violet, Kaytlyn, Lauretta, Annaliesa, Carol, Kimberly, Chris, Mike, Melarie and Grace, visited shut-in members Wanda Schwartz and Suzanne Saalfeld at Sunrise Assisted Living. They presented their renditions of Christmas carols in the dining hall where many residents joined in as well. Everyone enjoyed the visit, especially Suzanne and Wanda. Afterwards, the group visited Muriel Strieter at her home in Lafayette. She welcomed the carolers' with delight.



Holiday Dinning at Norseman's

by Marv Kreitz, President of NFS

The Nifty Fifty Seniors enjoyed a luscious Holiday Luncheon at the Norseman's Restaurant at Diablo Valley College Culinary School on Wed Dec. 7th. This was the first time to my knowledge that they have had a Holiday Buffet in Dec. so we really didn't know what to expect. The Buffet we attended last year was a Thanksgiving buffet in Nov. and it was outstanding. Cost \$30.00. The Holiday Buffet in Dec this year cost \$20.00 and we weren't sure, being so close to the Christmas Break for the students, what to expect. When we entered we were immediately impressed I should say dazzled by the array of salads and appetizers such as Stuffed Mushrooms with blue cream cheese fillings finished with a light crispy bread crumb topping and a host of cheeses. Yummy! Entrees followed such as Prime Rib, with a spicy sauce like gravy, Ham, Turkey and all the trimmings. And of course mashed potatoes, Candied yams with orange caramel sauce etc. Last but not least was a assortment of desserts from a variety of cookies to gooey chocolate cream filled concoctions. Herb insisted that we all try a chocolate round ball filled with cream etc. and It was great. The Restaurant was festively decorated for the Holiday Season and the waiters were gracious and attentive to our needs. In fact, I had failed to obtain a bowl of their Pumpkin Soup, when I went though the line and I asked a waitress going by if she would get me a bowl and she graciously handled my request. I expected the soup not to be real hot, but to my surprise it was and the soup was great. An added touch was the ginger bread display being judged next to our table. We met Chef Brian outside when we were leaving and took a picture of him with us. We told him how impressed we were with the Buffet and how proud he should be of the excellent way his students handled such a large group of dinners. He asked if we would send a letter to the College Culinary School with the picture and a copy to him. Which we did....I'm sure we will go again next year....☺



Seniors Christmas Sing-A-Long

On Wed. Dec. 21st the Nifty Fifty Seniors enjoyed a delightful pot luck luncheon consisting of delicious casseroles, salads, chili and desserts along with a generous supply of Melanie's homemade bread and the consensus of opinion was that every one of the cooks was a gourmet chef. We sang a couple Christmas carols and then we listened to a really great presentation by our Historian Bible Scholar Jack Mortenson. Jack stated that: The Christmas celebration is an opportunity for believers to express Joy as grateful recipients of God's grace in sending his son as Jesus into the world to be our savior. The world tries to divert our attention from the "Reason for the Season" so we must pray, worship and meditate to the profound and extraordinary truth of what God has done through the life of Jesus.

Jack started at the beginning:

The Holy Scriptures tell us that the triune God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis and John say this). The prophets including Moses, of whom Jesus said "wrote about me. ...I will rise up a prophet like you from among you." (I have a copy of Jack's notes that are just too profound and omniscient for me to summarize) Grace Gin has agreed to write his complete notes and include it in the Feb. Cross Currents. What a blessing to have such a scholar as a member of our church. Then we enjoyed the balance of the afternoon where we sang Christmas Carols accompanied by Jan, the Trinity Churches Organist, at the piano and Marv leading the singing.

Just as last year the highlight of the afternoon was the singing of "Silent Night" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" in German. What a blessing to have such a great group and what a wonderful way to herald in the Christmas Season.☺



Women of Holy Cross

"Women of the Word, Women in the Word, Women Walking with Jesus."

President's Note

Cherylene Brueckner

It is time to turn the page on the calendar to not just a new month, but a new year! Blessings, challenges and opportunities await us as we step into 2012.

The Women of Holy Cross have January events planned for you for fellowship and service. Be sure to join us on Monday, January 9th at 6:00 p.m. for our annual potluck and Bunco Night. Melarie has wonderful prizes for us, and a potluck always promises good food. On Sunday, January 22nd, we will be hosting a "Bites for Mites" bake sale to benefit the CNH District LWML 2010-2012 Mite Projects. We will need bakers and customers to make this a successful event. You can read more about these "opportunities to be blessed" in this newsletter and the Sunday bulletins.

January is also the time for the WoHC to set up a nominating committee for new officers to be elected at our March meeting. Each year we elect two officers for a two-year term. The positions open this year are president and secretary. I am finishing my second term of office as president, and Marilyn Neumann is finishing her first term as secretary. Serving as a WoHC officer is a wonderful opportunity to be blessed by working closely with the wonderful women at Holy Cross. Friendships grow and strengthen as we work and share together. An officer of WoHC does not walk alone. Faith, prayer, and our sisters in Christ enable each of us to step forward with confidence for the tasks at hand. Please talk to me, or any of our board members, about how you can share your gifts as a nominating committee member, or an officer or board member in WoHC. Volunteer now – abundant blessings await you!

Non-Progressive Dinner

by Carol Lau

We had a good group of 32 women all dressed in Christmas finery. The Norsemen Culinary School did an awesome job of making a delicious dinner for us. We all enjoyed being relaxed and waited on by the professionals as they learn from each experience. It was a night of laughter and joy as we had new people join us this year. Everyone loved the white elephant exchange as we passed around the gifts between us. Many thanks to all the people who planned, decorated, invited, drove and participated in this fun event. We hope you'll make it a habit to come and enrich your friendships at all of our women's events throughout the year.



White elephant gift exchange...Shelly Bell liked what she saw, but was she able to keep it?!



"Girls, *this* is the way to don this hat!", Terry Hawkyard.



Annette captured her table-mates attention with her lively conversation.

Upcoming Events

The voters at the November General Meeting approved the Board's recommendation to sponsor Scott Jonas, a seminary student at St. Louis, with an amount not to exceed \$400/year.

Jan 9, 2012, Monday

5:00 PM Board meeting,
6:00 PM General Meeting –
activities: *Pot luck Dinner,*
Bunco & reveal our Secret Pals

Jan 22, 2012 Sunday,

Bites for Mites Bake Sale for
LWML MITES
Please return with something baked, so we can add it to the items we already have to sell. Be sure to read the fliers, posters, etc.

Feb. 12, 2012 Sunday SAVE THIS DATE!

This is the date for our
"Be My Valentine" Buffet

Feb. 22, 2012 Ash Wednesday

March 12, 2012 Monday
6:30 PM General Meeting -
election of officers



December Birthday Girls:
Diana Butterfield(l) and Terry Hawkyard.

Bulbs for Options for Women

by Cherylene Brueckner

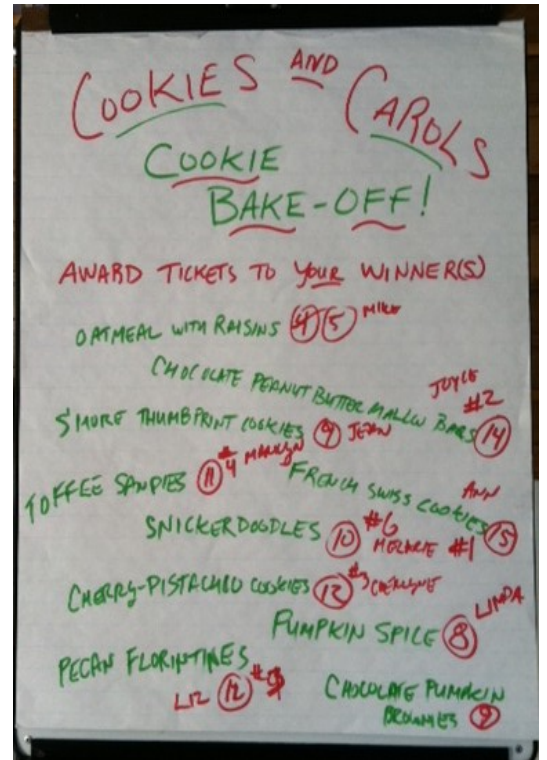
Saturday, December 10, several women from LWML Zone 7 met at Options for Women on Clayton Road in Concord to plant spring bulbs to add some color to the facility landscape. Those participating were Joyce Liebe, Cherylene Brueckner and Lynnette Campbell from Concord, Sherry Bell from Benicia, and Susan Contreras from Livermore.

This service project was an opportunity to reach out to others in our community to "serve the Lord with gladness". Options for Women, located at the corner of Clayton Road and Heather Drive in Concord, is a non-profit organization that offers pregnancy services, including abortion alternatives and counseling, to women in the community. Watch for a colorful display of God's handiwork this spring as you drive down Clayton Road.



Calories? Who Counts?!

by Grace Gin



On the first Sunday of December after the worship service, the congregation celebrated the advent of Christmas with the First Annual Cookie Bake-off. There were ten contestants and more than twice as many tasters/judges. Mike Liebe gave each one 3 tickets to put into bowls beside his/her favorite cookies. The types of cookies were: Mike L's *Oatmeal Raisins*; Joyce, *Chocolate Peanut Butter Mallow Bars*; Jean, *S'More Thumb Print Cookies*; Marilyn's *Toffee Almond Sandies*; Melarie, *Snickers Doodles*, Ann's *French Swiss Cookies*; Linda, *Pumpkin Spice*; Cherylene's *Cherry Pistachio Cookies*; Liz, *Pecan Florentines* and Grace's *Chocolate Pumpkin Brownies*..... and the winners were Ann (1st), Joyce (2nd), Cherylene and Liz (3rd). Everyone had a fun filled morning...great way to indulge our palates with no guilt! Thanks Mike, for organizing this activity. Well done judges!!

What Not to Bring into the New Year

Self-help books — Trust in God first; don't turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)

Tape measure — Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)

Rearview mirror — Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)

Gavel — Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)

Life vest — Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)

Garage-door opener — We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)

Handcuffs — Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through — and despite — us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)

—Gregg McCaslin



January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Mite Box /Hat Day 9am Worship / Communion 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study	2 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 7pm Boy Scout (H,L)	3 4pm UB Tutoring(E)	4 7pm Bible Study (H)	5 12:15pm NFS carpool to D.J. Bistro 4pm UB Tutoring(E)	6	7
8 9am Worship 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study	9 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 5pm WoHC Board Mtg 6pm WoHC General Mtg: Pot-luck, Bunco 7pm Boy Scout (L)	10 4pm UB Tutoring(E) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	11 7pm Bible Study (H)	12 4pm UB Tutoring(E)	13	14
15 9am Worship / Communion 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study	16 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30pm Church Council 7pm Boy Scout (L)	17 4pm UB Tutoring(E) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	18 1pm Senior Brd (L) 7pm Bible Study (H)	19 9am NFS Carpool to Exploratorium in SF 4pm UB Tutoring(E)	20	21
22 9am Worship 10am Bites for Mites <i>Bake Sale</i> 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 11:30am OUT-REACH	23 12:30pm Wm Bible Study(C) 7pm Boy Scout (L)	24 4pm UB Tutoring(E) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	25 7pm Bible Study (H)	26 4pm UB Tutoring(E)	27	28
29 9am Worship / Communion 10:30am Sunday School/Bible Study	30 7pm Boy Scout (L)	31 4pm UB Tutoring(E)				

(cl= Choir Loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, W=Wing Room)

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church,
LCMS**

1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS
1092 Alberta Way
Concord, CA 94521
(925) 686-2000
(925) 686-6894 FAX
info@holycrossconcord.org
Www.holycrossconcord.org
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	9:00AM
Communion	1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays
Adults Bible Studies	10:30AM (Library & Conf. Rm)
Sunday School	10:30AM

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, Wednesday
February Cross Currents: **January 20**

Office Hours: M-F 8:30AM-1PM