

FEBRUARY 2016

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 134

# CROSS CURRENTS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

PASTOR CHU

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| BIBLE STUDY                              | 2 |
| PRAYERS,<br>BIRTHDAYS,<br>DATES          | 3 |
| WOHC                                     | 4 |
| WOHC, OUT-<br>REACH RECAP                | 5 |
| NFS FEB. AC-<br>TIVITIES &<br>JAN. RECAP | 6 |
| FEBRUARY<br>2016 CALEN-<br>DAR           | 7 |
| HC WEEKLY<br>SCHEDULE                    | 8 |

*16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. — 2Timothy 3:16-17*

In his 2004 article, The Scandal of Biblical Illiteracy: It's Our Problem,<sup>1</sup> Dr. Albert Mohler<sup>2</sup> asserted: "While America's evangelical Christians are rightly concerned about the secular worldview's rejection of biblical Christianity, we ought to give some urgent attention to a problem much closer to home—biblical illiteracy in the church. This scandalous problem is our own, and it's up to us to fix it." The article was recently posted again on Dr. Mohler's website; it's safe to say that the problem Dr. Mohler highlighted in 2004 has likely worsened.

Dr. Mohler cited findings from various surveys (including George Barna) as evidence. For example:

- \* 81% of born-again Christians believe that "God helps those who help themselves" is a Bible verse
- \* Over 12% believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife
- \* Over 50% of graduating high school seniors thought that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife
- \* A large number of people thought that Billy Graham preached the Sermon on the Mount

"Secularized Americans should not be expected to be knowledgeable about the Bible," Dr. Mohler said. "As the nation's civic conversation is stripped of all biblical references and content, Americans increasingly live in a Scripture-free public space. Confusion and ignorance of the Bible's content should be assumed in post-Christian America."

Then Dr. Mohler pinpointed the problem for Christians: "The larger scandal is biblical ignorance among Christians... America's Christians know less and less about the Bible... Many who identify themselves as Christians are similarly confused about the Gospel itself. An individual who believes that "God helps those who help themselves" will find salvation by grace and justification by faith to be alien concepts..."

Dr. Mohler pointed to what he believed to be the root of the problem: "Christians who lack biblical knowledge are the products of churches that marginalize biblical knowledge... How many local-church youth programs actually produce substantial Bible knowledge in young people? Even the pulpit has been sidelined in many congregations. Preaching has taken a back seat to other concerns in corporate worship. The

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

centrality of biblical preaching to the formation of disciples is lost, and Christian ignorance leads to Christian indolence and worse.”

Dr. Mohler offered the following solutions:

- \* Parents must diligently study and follow the Word of God and teach their children the Word of God; parents *“cannot franchise [this] responsibility to the congregation.”*
- \* *“Churches must recover the centrality and urgency of biblical teaching and preaching, and refuse to sideline the teaching ministry of the preacher. Pastors and churches too busy — or too distracted — to make Biblical knowledge a central aim of ministry will produce believers who simply do not know enough to be faithful disciples.”*

*“We will not believe more than we know,”* Dr. Mohler said, *“and we will not live higher than our beliefs. The many fronts of Christian compromise in this generation can be directly traced to biblical illiteracy in the pews and the absence of biblical preaching and teaching in our homes and churches.”*

Dr. Mohler concluded with the following thought: *“This generation must get deadly serious about the problem of biblical illiteracy, or a frighteningly large number of Americans — Christians included — will go on thinking that Sodom and Gomorrah lived happily ever after.”*

How is your Bible literacy? Perhaps we won’t be Bible scholars, but we can and should be well-versed at least in the core teachings of Holy Scripture, beginning with what has been called the doctrine upon which the church stands or falls, namely that “God justifies (declares ‘not guilty’) sinners by grace, through faith on account of Christ.”

I have quoted at length from Dr. Mohler’s article; however, I encourage you to read his article in its entirety and critique his assessment of the problem as well as his proposed solutions:

- \* Do you agree that there is a problem with Biblical ignorance among Christians?
- \* What do you think of his solutions for reversing course?
- \* What other solutions do you suggest?
- \* What can we at Holy Cross do to increase our Biblical literacy?

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.albertmohler.com/2016/01/20/the-scandal-of-biblical-illiteracy-its-our-problem-4/>

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Mohler is the president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary — the flagship school of the Southern Baptist Convention and one of the largest seminaries in the world

## New Bible Study

A new Lenten Bible Study, “People of the Passion” by William Ney will start Wednesday, **February 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM**. This is the week following Ash Wednesday. Each lesson will follow the Sunday morning Scripture readings during Lent, concentrating on the book of Luke.

The first lesson is “The Temptation—Jesus and Satan”, Luke 4: 1-13. Each participant will have a study booklet to prepare and review at home.

I encourage all the church members and their families attend this very interesting Lenten study of Luke. Friends and neighbors are welcome, also. Pat Kroeger

### Those who are in need of our prayers:

**Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter** (hospice care), **Joy Parker** (Gayle Bothe's sister-healing), **Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor, David Grandt** (Liz Aduan's brother), **Elizabeth Bothé** (Gayle Bothe's granddaughter, non-churched), **Abbi and Alex Roman, June Stewart** (Judy West's friend-fainting), **Jan Tammiste** (Roman's nephew-brain injury, healing), **Betty and Cal Kallsen, Jeannine Godsey** (inner peace), **Steven Liedtke** (healing), **Herbert and Clara Huppert** (healing, guidance), **Julie Oback** (Diana Meux sister-healing), **Ellie** (Julie Oback's mother-healing from leukemia, saving faith in Christ), **Julie & Benjamin** (comfort and strength), **Andrew Gamble** (Gamble's grandson-juvenile arthritis), **Bob Hartman** (eye surgery, healing), **Blake Frances** (Bill Luker's grand nephew-cancer, healing), **Suzanne Stadler** (healing), **Jack and Doris Mortenson** (healing), **Eyona Pargman** (healing), **Ron Gamble** (healing), **Dennis Cross** (Chris Roman's uncle-cancer

treatment, healing), **Dorothy Hansen** (Janet Villa's mom-healing), **John Luker** (cancer treatments-healing), **Helene Liebert** (Mike Voss' co-worker-liver, colon cancer), **Cheryl Syrovatka** (knee surgery, healing), **Trudy Hueninghaus** (healing), **Jamie Eissner & Tommy** (treatments, comfort, strength), **Lorna Meitzer** (Eyona's daughter, back surgery-healing), **Lauretta Oliver** (healing), **Brandon Voss** (testing, healing), **Max Siegel** (Tim Hintz' friend-dbl. pneumonia, healing).

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

**Taylor Bothe-Yates** (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece, Texas), **Cadet Megan Gemar, PFC Kevin Hayworth** (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), **Lt. JG Aaron Bell**, Navy Chaplain CB Unit, Gulport, MS (Rev. & Sherry Bell's son), **P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s**.

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

|    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 4  | John Coyne           |
| 5  | Don Roberts          |
| 11 | Sue O'Malley         |
|    | Rhonda Liedtke       |
| 12 | Mike Seidel          |
|    | Gavin West           |
| 13 | Bill Koch            |
| 18 | Nathan Maurer        |
| 19 | Maxine Albano Flores |
| 20 | John Beutel          |
|    | Mike Voss            |
| 22 | Trina Godsey         |
|    | Tina Voss            |
| 27 | Justin Beutel        |

### Important February Dates

**Sunday Bible Class**—February 21, 28

**Wednesday Evening Bible Class**—February. 3, 17, 24

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service**—February 10 at 7:00 PM

*Holy Communion and  
Imposition of Ashes*



February Choir Rehearsals

**Feb. 2, 9, 23**

February 2016 - What's Happening with the WoHC? by Joyce Liebe, President

In January we had our General Meeting at Sue O'Malley's home. First, THANK YOU to all who donated items to the Wardrobe for Opportunity organization. Sue had a large table overflowing with clothing, shoes, purses, briefcases, jewelry, etc. These will be passed on to men & women in preparation for job interviews as well as provide them appropriate clothing for their new jobs. As predicted we had a great time playing bunco - lots of laughter & side conversations, plus dessert of scrumptious carrot cake & cookies. At the end of the evening I think there might have been an agreement between some of us that "what happens at bunco stays with bunco players". Thanks Sue & to all who were able to join us. It was a reminder that our friends are a gift of God - a priceless gift that can never be bought, sold or forgotten.

Upcoming WoHC activities:

**Wed., 2/10, Ash Wednesday Dinner, 5:45pm Parish Hall.** All congregation members are welcome to enjoy dinner & fellowship prior to our 7pm Ash Wed. Evening Service. We will serve Papa Murphy's fresh baked Pizza, tossed salad, & dessert. Signup sheets will be posted for attendance, as well as help to set up, clean up, & provide dessert.

**Sunday, 2/21, General Meeting, Lunch, Secret Pals & Visit Shut-Ins., 11am, Parish Hall** After a short meeting, we will have a light lunch, reveal & choose new Secret Pals, & then go in groups of 2-3 to visit home bound members. Please plan to join us for all, or part of the events. Secret Pals forms will be distributed & attendance signup sheet will be posted.

**Sunday, 3/6, Bites for Mites Bake Sale AND Used Puzzle & Book Sale, 11am, Parish Hall** Join us for our annual Bites for Mites Bake Sale - your free will offering will go toward funding the 2014-2016 LWML-CNH Mission Grants. Look for sign-up sheet for baked goods donations. The used puzzle & book sale will be held at the same time. We will be accepting donations starting the end of Feb. More details to follow.

Upcoming Zone & District activities:

**Fri.-Sun., 4/15-4/17 LWML CNH District Convention, Visalia, CA.** I've attended a couple Conventions & have had a wonderful, uplifting experience each time. There are many activities you can participate in: Bible Study, speakers, music, book store, exhibits, & business meetings (elections & voting on grants); plus there's always fun, fellowship, worship services, & surprises. Convention Packets should come out in February/March with all the information we need to get our plans together.

Activity details are also on our Bulletin Board & Sunday Bulletins. As always, please feel free to contact me or any of the Board if you have questions, comments, or suggestions.

**Unless someone like you  
cares a whole awful lot,  
nothing is going to get better.  
It's not.  
-Dr. Seuss**





## WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS

We met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 11th. It was a beautiful, calm evening as we enjoyed fellowship. It was so nice of Sue and her mother to open their home to our group. Thanks for all the donations (there was a big pile) of clothing, to be delivered to Oakland. We had an informational meeting with interactive devotional. It was fun. Then we got down to the business of playing "Bunco"-a dice game involving much laughter and moving around the room. If you've never played, please join us the next time, no skill required. Again thanks for all who came out. "Wardrobe for Opportunity" was our mission project for January. Carol Lau

**Want to clear out some space in your home  
AND  
help raise money for WoHC General Fund & the  
Holy Cross Parking Lot fund?**

If so, **start setting aside puzzles & books** for a  
**USED PUZZLE & BOOK SALE** in early March.

Used puzzles as well as hardcover & paperback books will be accepted (fiction, non-fiction, cook-books, beginning readers, self-help, kids, biography, etc.).

PLEASE **NO** encyclopedias, textbooks, & magazines. You can also donate books on tape, CDs, & DVDs.

## Outreach Sunday, Jan. 24 Recap

Thank you Pat. E. for a wonderful menu of meat loaf, potatoes, vegetables, and salad. Melarie S. made each client (around 100) a tiny loaf of bread. What a special and delicious offering. Our volunteers go to the shelter rain or shine.

Any candy, goodies, or handouts would be appreciated for future Outreach Sundays. You may bring them to the kitchen on the fourth Sunday of the month which is our designated time for our outreach. Judy W. brought candy bars in December and our friends were delighted. All of these little special things make them feel very special and normal, being accepted into society.

Outreach is very Blessed in many ways. Our next Outreach Sunday is February 28. Thanks to all of our volunteers and we would welcome all newcomers. Pat Easby.



Above—Allen busy again on the trees outside.

Below—Wednesday night Bible Class Potluck.



## NFS February Activities

We again are planning two activities for Feb. 2016. The first is Feb. 12 for lunch.

The Jade Garden Restaurant located at 2979 Ygnacio Valley Road Walnut Creek 94598. Many of you have eaten there and know how really good the food is. They have a lunch menu that is served with soup of the day, spring rolls, fried won tons, steamed rice or BBQ fried rice as well as a pot of hot tea. I often go there and have the Kung-Pao Shrimp which is supposed to be hot but has the peppers that can be removed which leaves it just the way I like it. Cost is \$9.25. There is a ton of other items such as Cashew Chicken for \$7.95 and Szechwan Chicken at \$8.50 all come with soup, rolls, fried won tons, tea etc. A real buy. Lunch is scheduled for 1:00. Meet at church or go direct but please let me know so I can make reservations. If you want to meet at Church meet there at **12:15** and leave at 12:30. Just a lunch to enjoy good Christian camaraderie. Sign up in the Social Hall.

## Chabot Space and Science Center Thursday Feb 25th 2016

Chabot Space and Science Center is located in the beautiful Oakland Hills just off Highway 13 in Oakland, a Smithsonian affiliate. Chabot is an educational science center whose mission is to educate students of all ages about Planet Earth and the Universe. This is 86,000 square foot center which offers interactive space and science exhibitions. Chabot is also home to the largest research-quality telescopes open to the public west of the Mississippi. Chabot is a hands-on celebration of sights, sounds and sensations. We plan on arriving at the museum about 10:30 and going straight to the Ask Jeeves Planetarium Full Dome digital projection system showing "Tails of the Maya Skies" which starts at 11:00. It's really impressive. Immerse yourself in the beauty of the "Seven wonders of the modern world" with 360 degree viewing. We plan on eating at the center where they have great soup and sandwiches. There is an area called The Challenger Learning Center where there is a hands on simulated space mission environment. At 2:30 we go back to the Ask Jeeves Planetarium to view the "Dawn of the Space Age" which starts with the launch of Sputnik and includes important Russian space history as well as American Gemini. Cost of admission is \$15.00 and includes the two presentations and parking is free. Meet at church at **9:45** and leave at 10:00. Sign up in the social hall and look forward to a day of new experiences with Church friends. Marv Kreitz

## January Recap

I arrived at Church at 12:15 and there was Bill Luker, Allen Bruckner, Christl Rose and Eberhard and Anke Weiss. We left at 12:30 as planned and arrived at the Restaurant at 1:05. There we were warmly greeted by eleven members of our church for a total of 17. What a blessing. To say the least I was impressed with the huge dining area. Row after row of tables with the food offerings lining the walls on two sides. Everything was grouped by the food it offered. There was an island area of Soup with huge urns and 6 different kinds. A whole wall of Sushi, there must have been a twenty different types (so many I didn't know what to select). There was areas of hot food and cold food. The bbq chicken and roasted duck was great and there was a bunch of food like dim sum, tempura, fried chicken. You can also order noodle soup in the back. There was a large space for this. They did have a large area for desserts including a lady dishing up bowls of Ice Cream, three different flavors and a host of different puddings with a dab of whipped cream. All and all it was a delightful experience and when I go back again I will know better what to have so that I won't be full before I have what I want. Our bill for 17 people came to \$301.00 divided by 17 or \$17.70 each. They had a 20% gratuity automatically added to the bill. I had originally asked for individual billing which they agreed to and when I was up getting more food they brought the bill charging for everyone on the same bill and Joyce Liebe, "being the leader she is", along with Kristie Barton and Christl Rose had everything all figured out so I left it in good hands. It was a fun outing. Marv Kreitz





# February 2016



| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | <b>1</b><br>12:30p Wm Bible Study (C)<br>2:30p WoHC Brd Mtg.<br>7p Scouts                                    | <b>2</b><br>3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum<br>7:15p Choir Rehearsal  | <b>3</b><br>7p Bible Study   | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>                                       | <b>6</b><br>11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum  |
| <b>7 Mite Box/Hat Sun.</b><br><b>9:30am Worship/Communion</b><br>11a Sunday School<br>2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)                 | <b>8</b><br>12:30p Wm Bible Study (C)<br>7p Scouts   | <b>9</b><br>3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum<br>7:15p Choir Rehearsal  | <b>10 Ash Wednesday</b><br>1p Senior Brd<br>5:45p Congregation Dinner<br>7p Ash Wednesday Services | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b><br>12:15p NFS Jade Garden Restaurant | <b>13</b><br>11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum |
| <b>14 Valentine's Day</b><br><b>9:30am Worship</b><br>11a Sunday School<br>2-6p Myanmar Christian (H)                            | <b>15 President's Day</b><br>12:30p Wm Bible Study (C)<br>12:30p Bridge<br>6:30p Church Council<br>7p Scouts | <b>16</b><br>3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum<br>6:30p Elders          | <b>17</b><br>7p Bible Study  | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>                                      | <b>20</b><br>11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum |
| <b>21</b><br><b>9:30am Worship/Communion</b><br>11a Sunday School/Bible Study<br>11a WoHC General MTG.<br>2-6p Myanmar Christian | <b>22</b><br>12:30p Wm Bible Study (C)<br>7p Scouts  | <b>23</b><br>3:30-6:45p Firecracker Forum<br>7:15p Choir Rehearsal | <b>24</b><br>7p Bible Study  | <b>25</b><br>9:45a NFS Chabot Space & Science Center | <b>26</b>                                      | <b>27</b><br>11:00-2:00p Firecracker Forum |
| <b>28</b><br><b>9:30am Worship</b><br>10:30a Outreach Sunday<br>11a Sunday School/Bible Study<br>2-6p Myanmar Christian          | <b>29</b><br>12:30p Wm Bible Study (C)<br>7p Scouts  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS  
1092 Alberta Way  
Concord, CA 94521  
(925) 686-2000  
[holycrossconcord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:holycrossconcord@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.holycrossconcord.org](http://www.holycrossconcord.org)

**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: M. Kuefner

**Office Hours:** M-F 9 AM-1:00 PM

**Worship Schedule:**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Sunday Service       | 9:30 AM   |
| Communion            | 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays |
| Adults Bible Studies | 11AM  |
| Sunday School        | 11 AM   |

**Week Day Bible Study Schedule:**

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

**Choir Rehearsal:**

|         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| Tuesday | 7: 15PM-8:45PM |
|---------|----------------|

**Outreach:**

Fourth Sunday of each month after service

**Publication Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday  
March. 2016 Cross Currents: Feb. 22, 2016