

November 2011
Volume 29, Issue 11

RAYS of HOPE

JOURNAL OF CROSS OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Calling and Educating into Christ

A Night of Thanks and Joyful Noise!

Cross of Hope's Praise Team presents a Night of Thanks and Joyful Noise on Friday, November 18. First we thank our Lord and Savior for all of the great and wonderful things God has done; second, collect donations for Joy Junction to show our gratitude in helping others; and lastly make some wonderful joyous noise!

Being so close to Thanksgiving, we want to show our

thanks by giving to others by asking for donations of new and used clothes, as well as non-perishable goods that we will combine with the Walking in the Way Wednesday (**W³**), service project group and deliver to Joy Junction.

There is no admission or charge for this evening; if you are able to contribute to this cause, we would sincerely appreciate it.

The night of joyful noise will be our 10:45 a.m. praise team playing and singing some of our favorite Christian songs because we love to make joyful noise and because we want to give thanks to the One who gave us our gifts.

We do hope that you will be able to join us on Friday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. in our church sanctuary and join us in lifting our

voices in song to our Lord and Savior. He-BREWS will be open during the intermission and we will have some desserts for sale by our Senior High Youth to help raise funds for their trip to New Orleans.

If you have any questions about any of these things, please let me know!

Thank you,
Richard Hielkema,
Music Director
897-0047 or
music@crossofhope.org.

Congregation Meeting November 6

On Sunday, November 6, at noon the congregation gathers for its fall annual meeting.

The primary purpose of the meeting is to elect members of the congregation council, voting delegates to

the May 2012 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly and the 2012 nominating committee. Plan to attend and vote.

Nominating Committee consists of: Doug Perry, Lynn Kymes, Ken Harrington, and

Katie Singleton were appointed by the congregation council, following the formula of the congregation's constitution.

The other meeting of the congregation is in the spring and its primary purpose is to

share information and adopt the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012.

(Enclosed in this issue are profiles of the nominees.)

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church

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The newsletter of Cross of Hope Lutheran Church is published each month for the enrichment of the mission, for the life of the people of God at Cross of Hope and our community.

Pastor: Rev. Dale G. Bauer
 Editorial Staff: Edee Bauer
 Mary Bresnahan
 Mabel Finney
 Nancy Morrison
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Columnists: Patty Westerfield

Mailing Editor: Patricia Gladstone
 Mailing Staff:
 Marjorie Covington Linda Molde
 Garneth Harris June Slagle
 Dolores Hughes Julie Thompson
 Marcella Johnson Carol Russell

WE WANT YOUR NEWS ITEMS:

Deadline is 10th of the month for the following month's edition. E-mail articles to office@crossofhope.org or deliver to church office.

Council Communication

By Carolyn Bye, Council President



Our annual congregational meeting for the election of new council members will be held November 6, 2011 right after the 10:45 a.m. service. Please plan to attend and cast your vote for council members, synod representatives for 2012, and new members for the Nominating Committee for 2012.

At our October Council meeting, we noted that revenues for August and September did not meet expenses. This seems like a temporary situation with summer and the start of school; however, we encourage members to review pledges and assist in bringing revenues back up to budgeted amounts.

Council also accepted resignations of Hans Zimmer and Karen Schwartz from the Audit Committee. Karen's resignation from the Audit Committee was followed by her confirmation to the volunteer position of Director of Financial and Business Operations. Karen will begin immediately to

work with Greg Morrison to learn the tasks of these two critical positions and Greg will transition out of these positions over the next several months. Welcome, Karen, and thank you, Greg, for years of great service and your continued service over the next months. New members will be sought for the Audit Committee to begin their terms in January 2012.

Council is working on the details of Interim Pastor, Call Committee, and other groups need to prepare for Pastor Dale's retirement in June. Look for complete information on the steps and processes to be set out in January. Several people will be needed to assist with these activities. Please pray about where you may be called to assist.

Remember, Las Posadas is Sunday evening December 11. **SMORES** will be leading this event for us. Your help is needed to provide this gift to our community. Thanks for participating in ministry by volunteering in this important event.

	<u>September 2011</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue	\$30,890.57	108,879.31
Expenses	<u>\$37,591.39</u>	<u>129,204.50</u>
Overage/Shortage	(6,700.82)	(20,325.19)

September 2011 Attendance

Total Attendance: 879
 Average Attendance: 220

Heart Strings



Members of COH unable to worship on a regular basis. Send a card or call.

Merlin (Pete) Peterson
Westwind House,
6600 Los Volcanes Road
NW
Albuquerque, NM 87121

Mary Jane Brown
836-4327
2229 Ana Court NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Becky Yagow
897-4594
4821 Snapdragon Rd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Betty Banks c/o
Chip and Pat Davis
831-0249
300 Camino Siete SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Jo Threewitt
974-5540
Paloma Landing
8301 Palomas Ave NE
#344
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Barbara Stalheim
Aegis of Napa #216
2100 Redwood Road
Napa, CA 94588

LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, Nov 16, 2011
Village Pizza
4266 Corrales Rd,
Meets at—1:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch Coordinator:
Stan Socha—839-7416

Wedding

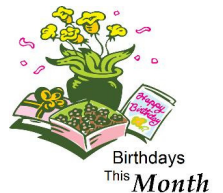
Jeffrey Horn and Amanda Nelson were married by Rev. Dale G. Bauer on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at Cross of Hope Church.

Baptisms

Tyler Elijah Quintana and Jakobe Meyer Marcotte were baptized Saturday, October 8 and Austin Feistel was baptized on Saturday, October 22 during the 5:30 p.m. service.

Birthdays

Wendy Sylvester	11/1
Elisa McLellan	11/2
Juanita Garcia	11/6
Conor Bramley	11/7
Ron Cordova	11/8
Marcella Johnson	11/8
Kala Smith	11/8
Karen Schwartz	11/11
Katherine Warrick	11/11
Ken Harrington	11/12
Gregory Morrison	11/13
Nicolas Orbinati	11/13
Ashlie Spinks	11/14
Lynn Kymes	11/15
Chris Morgan	11/15
Sarah Snyder	11/15
Madeline Nelson	11/16
Bruce Molde	11/17
Elise Hielkema	11/18
Michael Sylvester	11/19
Hans Zimmer	11/19
Becky Yagow	11/20
Rachel Hipple	11/25
Annette Newton	11/25
Kristin Grice	11/26
Nancy Morrison	11/26
Mark Phaneuf	11/28
Linda Molde	11/29
Mary Warrick	11/29
Dru Hale	11/30



Birthdays
This Month

Anniversaries

Celebrating 10 years or more

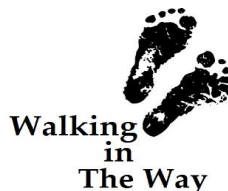
Nicole & Victor Bencomo	11/9	10 years
Bill & Janille Hicks	11/26	31 years

Join Us at Cross of Hope for W³ (Walking In The Way Wednesdays)

5:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Family Dinner, Fun, Education, Music

Contact: Richard Hielkema
music@crossofhope.org
(505) 897-0047



November Themes

11/2 and 11/9 Serving
11/16 Spiritual Fervor
11/30 Teaching





Pastor Dale

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

Date: September 11, 2011

Text: Matthew 18:21-35

**Title: A Season of Hope
and Forgiveness**

I can remember exactly where I was the morning of September 11, 2001, as clearly as I can remember where I was on November 22, 1963. (Yes, I'm that old.)

I was at what was then the Men's Bible Study here at Cross of Hope. We met in what was then known as the kitchen. We met there every Tuesday morning at 6:30 a.m. Close to the end of our study, a member of the congregation, Ron, came in at a little after nine o'clock eastern time zone, and said, "Did you hear that a plane crashed into the World Trade Center in New York?" Time stopped for a moment for me as I tried to get a fix on what I had just heard. What came to mind was the

image I had seen of an Army Air Force bomber that had accidentally crashed into the Empire State Building in the 30's or the 40's. I can still see the photo of the bomber's tail sticking out of the building but, all in all, not much damage was done. But I was compelled to head home, turn on the T.V.—and watch the first tower collapse.

If you are old enough, you remember where you were. You have your own memories of that day. And feelings. The human brain is a complex thing that stores and layers images and feelings.

Today is a day of memories. Of burning, collapsing buildings. Of hundreds of brave firefighters and police responding to the disaster, no matter the risk. Of phone calls to family by those who would die in the collapsing buildings. This is as it should be, because those who fail to remember history are condemned to relive it.

There have been many responses to 9/11. Grief is one of them. Anger justifiably is another. We have a complex airport security program

that is ubiquitous. I believe we are now engaged in war for a longer period than any other in our history. Cross of Hope's response was to commit itself to strengthening and expanding educational ministry here. At the end of 2000 the congregation voted to develop an elementary school. A search for a site began, a business plan was developed, and budget designed. A facility was located and then came 9/11. The stock market took a hit. Uncertainty was in the air.

But we continued with the development of a school, an ambitious and costly enterprise at any time. A start-up plan projected the fall of 2003 for the opening of the school. It finally required a building program here, which was completed in February of 2004. At the same time, the move to get national accreditation for the preschool was well underway.

It was a response of hope. We could have chosen a response of entrenchment, caution, and fear. But we didn't; we chose hope. Hope given to us in the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, not destruction promoted by angry and brutal men. Tak-

ing destruction and turning it into construction. Then. Now. And in the future. Some once asked our name sake, Martin Luther, what he would do if he learned that the end was near. His reply? Plant a tree.

Jesus suggests another response. A much more difficult one: forgiveness. Have we forgiven or are we ready to forgive those who perpetrated the dastardly acts of 9/11? Or are they too evil to forgive?

Peter, the rock, runs up to Jesus and says,

Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him?

Without hesitation Jesus replies,

I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

Yikes. I can get over this 9/11 disaster, even put it behind me, but forgive these people? I confess I find it very hard, even after ten years. The Old Adam (as in Adam and Eve) that lives in me was glad to hear that Osama Bin Laden was dead. About the only good thing I could find in what the terrorists did on 9/11 is that they



destroyed themselves.

When I get stuck with forgiving, I turn to a little book called *Forgive & Forget: Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve*. The author, Lewis B. Smedes, suggests some important things about forgiveness:

1. The deeper the hurt, the longer it takes to forgive.

2. Forgiving is not forgetting.

3. Forgiving allows for healing.

4. Forgiving monsters makes them real human beings who are held responsible for their actions.

A personal slur takes a lot less time to forgive than the World Trade Center, or Pearl Harbor, or the Bataan Death March.

Forgiving doesn't erase the pain or the consequences of horrendous acts. Healing by forgiving is not for the perpetrator as much as it is for the victim. It brings a level of closure and release. He makes the point that although we are sinful, we are not evil human beings. We side with evil, take up its cause, and do horrible things. But evil needs no forgiveness; evil

human beings do. And making them responsible humans choosing to do evil allows God, in the future, to do the avenging.

Finally, he suggests forgiveness is an act of love, patterning our lives after the life of Jesus Christ.

All this, on this day: remembering, hoping, and forgiving. Amen.

Youth Profile—Wyatt Perry



Wyatt Perry a senior at Sandia High School, is an avid golfer and a co-captain of the Sandia Golf Team. His golf journey began several years ago in middle school. He has been led and encouraged by a few special folks at Cross of Hope:

Carroll Cannoles showed interest in Wyatt's golf game from the very beginning.

Bill Hicks has been instrumental in Wyatt's development when he recognized a rough talent and desire. Bill really set things in motion in many ways, including

developing focus and determination.

Wyatt played for the Golf Week Junior PGA, as well as the Sun Country Junior PGA. This summer he ranked 4th overall with Sun Country including three 1st place, two 2nd place, and one 3rd place finish. Wyatt played in the annual summer Albuquerque Men's City Tournament 3-day event, and placed second. Most recently was a 1st place at the Arroyo del Oso tournament for high school teams on October 6, with a score of 74. This helped the team secure one of 3 legs needed to qualify for the State Championship Tournament set for the spring of 2012, as

well as a 1st place finish for the Sandia team.

Since the 6th grade Wyatt has participated in the annual Erin Trujeque Memorial Golf Tournament at the UNM Championship Golf Course. This 27 year event is in memory of a young golfer who lost his life to cancer at the age of 12. It raises funds benefiting the Children's Cancer fund of New Mexico.

Wyatt is in the beginning stages of a project to teach elementary school kids about golf. Greg Kymes, the coach at Chamiza Elementary, a serious golfer himself, is working with Wyatt on an after-school program to encourage

interest in golfing.

Cross of Hope is a special place, with caring folks who step up to mentor our young people, as you can see by this story. A simple show of interest or kindness could have a lasting effect on a teenager's future. Who could benefit from your knowledge?

Thank you to these gentlemen in mentoring Wyatt. Mr. Cannoles for expressing his golfing interests towards Wyatt; Mr. Bill Hicks, for his wisdom and for passing on his "love of the game"; and Mr. Kymes for providing an opportunity for Wyatt to teach elementary school kids about golf.



Giving Thanks For Cross Of Hope School Volunteers

By Sharon Halstead, Principal

in the west wing of the school to create a bigger youth room and general meeting area.

Volunteers from the church and school joined together to clear out storage closets, cabinets, and classrooms to make room for a new library, two new classrooms, and a lunchroom in HeBREWS Café.

Computer systems were overhauled, classrooms, bathrooms, and hallways were painted, the playground fence was repaired and painted, the grass was tended with such care it became a lush carpet of green in time for little feet to play on it, and playground equipment was installed.

All of this was made

possible by Cross of Hope Church and School volunteers! We'd like to especially thank Robert Bye, Carolyn Bye, Bob Slagle, and Kevin Perkins for the many, many hours they invested in heading up projects over the summer.

We thank also: David Yagow, Chris Martin, Gregg Halstead, Robert Phillips, Koinonia Boomerang, Cross of Hope Ministry Groups, the church office volunteer staff, Richard Telles and family, Paul Bruns, Brian Hipple, Kel Orbinati, members of the school board, and so many others who worked behind the scenes to accomplish these feats.

We give thanks also for the volunteers who

daily work among us in the school: Grandma Pat who helps in 2nd grade, Mary Hughes and Mrs. Montiel who coordinated and ran our vision and hearing screenings, Pam Thieme and Debbie Lambers who are our Librarians, our many lunch room helpers, Janille Hicks, Barb Ostby and our Parents of Hope leaders who have all contributed to the success of family school events like the recent Desert Concert. The list of volunteers seems endless...how fortunate we are!

Thank you, Cross of Hope family, for the many ways you touch the hearts of our children, families, and teaching staff!

Since November is the month of Thanksgiving, Cross of Hope Elementary would like to dedicate this month's newsletter to giving thanks for the many volunteers who make our school great.

Over the course of the summer, we witnessed many exciting changes in our school and church building that resulted in more space and comfort for the school as well as the many ministries that use the building.

At the beginning of the summer, we saw walls come down and new doorways made

Karen Schwartz Appointed Director of Financial and Business Operations



Council appointed Karen Schwartz as the incoming Director of Financial and Business Operations to work with Greg Morrison over the next several months to transition Greg out of those

positions. Greg's workload at his place of employment is demanding too much of his time for him to continue carrying the full weight of these two administrative positions. With Karen

on-board, the two of them will work out how to transition financial operations over the next several months and Karen will begin to assist

Continued on page 7

When you need these services, please think of Rays of Hope sponsors.

We thank them for their continued support in offsetting the costs associated with producing Rays of Hope each month.

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 www.amazingmolecules.net

Bill and Janille Hicks

Karen Schwartz continued from page 6

with Human Resource tasks as needed with Greg available for consultation on both financial and Human Resource activities.

sistance just when we needed it as Greg realized he could not keep up with all the demands for his time.

Please help us welcome Karen to the church staff; Karen's resignation from the Audit Committee was also accepted by Council during the meeting.

Greg has served with excellence during his tenure as Director of Financial and Business Operations and devoted many hours of his time to the demanding activities of those positions.

We are blessed that God has provided as-

"Thank You" seems a bit small to cover the appreciation we feel for Greg and his commitment as a servant here at Cross of Hope; however, we offer it with our heartfelt sincerity-- thank you, Greg.

Carolyn Bye, Council President
 council@crossofhope.org



30 Years of Cross of Hope Memories



**Rev. Ron Barth,
Mission Developer
and First Pastor**

This is the third in a series of articles of my memories at Cross of Hope during the first seven years of the congregation's history.

I mentioned in my last article that I spent the first six weeks calling on about 1200 homes in the Taylor Ranch area. We focused on two groups of people: the unchurched (those with no Christian affiliation or background) and the "de-churched" (those who had some Christian affiliation in past years, but then drifted away). When we found an occasional

Lutheran family it was "gravy." Lutherans in New Mexico were in a distinct unknown minority—1% of the population. (I recall the neighbors of one family who joined Cross of Hope became concerned their friends were getting involved in a cult.) As the home visits continued, I kept a record of each contact. Slowly a list of interested folks began to build.

Meanwhile, we began thinking of a name for our new congregation. I remember returning to Albuquerque from a meeting in El Paso. As we drove, Mavis went through our national church yearbook reading the names of every congregation. There were definitely some we would not consider, such as Looney Valley Lutheran Church (a congregation not far from where I grew up.) After much thought, conversation and prayer, we decided on

"Cross of Hope."

"Cross of Hope" is based on the verse from Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy..." It reflects the belief that no person is meant to be burdened with despair, self accusations and doubt. God intends all of us to live with hope, confidence and joy. The source of this hopeful lifestyle is Jesus Christ, represented by the symbol of the cross. I envisioned a tall and well lighted cross on our property, as a beacon of hope for all who pass by.

We incorporated the congregation's name into the title of our newsletter (Rays of Hope) that was sent out monthly, beginning in October 1981 to those on the list. We invited these folks to our home on Prairie Night Lane several times to get acquainted, engage in Bible study, share our vision about a new church and prepare

for our first worship service (chairs, altar, banners, hymnals, advertising, bulletins, etc.)

The options for a facility to worship in Taylor Ranch were limited. We rented the cafeteria at Marie Hughes Elementary School. Our first service was held November 22, 1981 with 52 attending. The second Sunday, rock music filled the sound system and the custodian could not turn it off. So, we crowded into the music room. The third Sunday, two police cars arrived in response to an alarm. The fourth Sunday, the building was locked. I started the service outside the front doors. We began seriously looking for another place to meet.

Next time: A new worship space and the congregation is organized.

MOPS List of Vendors and Items for Operation Christmas Child

Vendors

Lia Sophia, Tupperware, Pampered Chef, 31, Mary Kay & Bowtique, Silpada, Gold Canyon, Avon, Partylite, Stamping Up, Premier Designs, Arbonne, Customized Jewelry, Tastefully Simple, Scentsy

Ideas to Bring for Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Fill with gifts such as school supplies, age appropriate toys (no war related toys please), hygiene items (no liquids or lotions please), and miscellaneous items such as socks, underwear, hard candies (place in a plastic bag please), sunglasses, hair clips, flashlights, etc.

MOPS and Cross Of Hope School Hosts Christmas Expo and Operation Christmas Child

On Thursday, November 10 6.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m. MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) is partnering with COH School to gather items and pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. When you and your family stop by the church to help, we invite you to also visit a Christmas Expo fundraiser for MOPS.

Many home-based businesses have signed up to participate, agreeing to donate a percentage of their night's profits to

MOPS. It's a simple, fun way for you to help us out while you conveniently do some early Christmas shopping! (Any items that must be ordered should be received prior to Thanksgiving travel, in case you plan to deliver gifts to family over that holiday.)

FREE child care will be provided so you can shop with both eyes and both hands! The nursery will be open for kids two and under, while children three and older will

watch a Christmas movie and eat popcorn. So, take heart – your children will be supervised and you'll only need octopus arms for checking out all the awesome merchandise! And, of course, to balance a plate of fantastic hors d'oeuvres and desserts while you browse.

We are asking for an entry fee of \$3, or \$1 if you bring a single donation for Operation Christmas Child. You can also purchase raffle tickets to

win a basket of wonderful goodies donated by our vendors!

We sure hope to see you in the Great Hall for service, giving, food, and fun. **Mark your calendars for November 10.** Remember to bring your donations for Operation Christmas Child, and look for these vendors once you get inside.

Contact Kristin Grice 896-0650

kristingrice@rocketmail.com for more information.

Reference page 8 for list of vendors and shoebox donation items

Youth Working Hard To Get To New Orleans

On October 9, 2011 fourteen youth and three adults from Cross of Hope committed to attending the 2012 ELCA National Gathering. We will be joined by 38,983 other Lutherans from around the country. Shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, approximately 39,000 youth and their chaperones hit the streets to help clean up and restore order to a devastated community. They made such an impact, New Or-

leans requested the ELCA return for the next gathering. The community was so touched by the infiltration of Christ's love, they wanted that feeling again.

In July, 2012, we will return to New Orleans. We have an amazing opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ, to show Christ's love through our actions and service, and to leave a lasting impact on the people of New Orleans. We will learn how to evangel-

ize, how to serve others, and about justice and peace. The theme for this gathering, Citizens with the Saints, is based on Ephesians 2:14-20, a great reminder to us that Christ ministered to everyone. He left no one out. He discriminated against no one. We are called to do the same.

The skills we will learn in New Orleans will come home with us and our community.

We cannot make the trip possible without your help. We ask the congregation to pray for us and to help us raise approximately \$18,000 to get us where God has called us to be. Please consider supporting our fundraising efforts: candle sales Nov. 13 and a burrito sale Nov 20.

Thank you Cross of Hope for your continued prayers and support.

Deney Perkins, Youth Gathering Coordinator



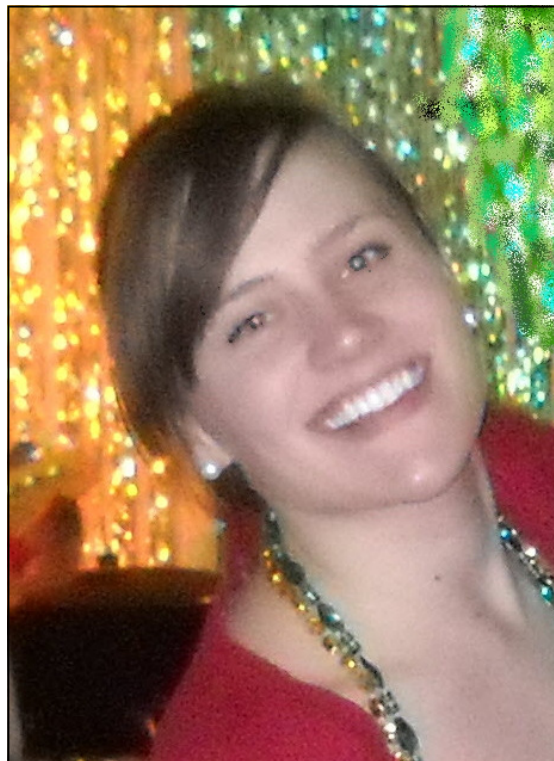
Hello From Tanzania

Riana Halstead, On Mission in Tanzania

Riana Halstead has been a part of the Cross of Hope community since her baptism in 1993. Confirmed in 2003 she has been active in many aspects of church life here. Her parents Sharon and Gregg and siblings Renn, Meagan and Sawyer also are quite familiar to Cross of Hope! Below is her email from Africa.

I have, once again, been incredibly blessed by the good people God has surrounded me with here in Tanzania. Every day begins with a 6:30 a.m. breakfast consisting of porridge, small bananas, crepes, eggs, and bread. Every so often they have "sausages", which are very similar to our American hot dog, or bacon and beans which are my absolute favorite. After breakfast all of the volunteers - excluding myself and 2 others- are taken by our drivers to their placement. I am lucky enough to have a placement nearby, so I only have about a ten minute walk to and from my school, Shirimatunda, every

day. On any given day I have 10 to 14 students varying in severity of mental disabilities. Some students only have ADD/ADHD or dyslexia (which seem to be very misunder-



stood here) while others have down syndrome, autism, and severe mental retardation. So needless to say it can be a very challenging task to meet each child's academic and social needs everyday. BUT I have learned that the smallest of accomplishments my children show are

the most monumental because I know that they are learning and growing despite the language barrier between myself and the class, let alone their disability. The two women who

run the school also try to assist us in explaining activities that we have prepared for class. Many days we end up teaching songs to our students in Swahili and English because that is the fastest way

our kids learn new terminology. I love that singing is such a universal mode of expression. I could sing all day. Everyday. The school day ends at 12:00 p.m. mzungu time (white peoples time) or 6:00 East African time. I walk with my fellow volunteer, Alexandra, back to the home base to have

lunch, a cultural learning activity of some sort, dinner, then lesson planning and bed. The lunches and dinners consist of the same kinds of foods. There is always some sort of meat (now I know what a drumstick from a chicken that hasn't been genetically modified looks like!), fruit (usually pineapple or papaya), about 4 starch options, and green veggies typically in a sauce. No matter if it's lunch or dinner, you can always count on a dish of sliced tomatoes and cucumbers and a bundle of small bananas.

I hope this provides you with a small bit of insight as to what my daily life is like here in Tanzania. I have so much more to share, but have such limited access to the computer that it will have to wait for another time. Until then, I want to say I love you all VERY much and I hope this email finds you all in a happy and healthy state. As we say here in Tanzania, "Tutu onana badai!" We will see each other soon!

Eternal Gardening “Care of the Soul”

By Patty Westerfield, Columnist



An inward person puts the care of his own soul before all other cares.

The Imitation of Christ, by Thomas A Kempis

Our soul will continue on into eternity. It shapes who we are today and what we will be tomorrow. How do you go about caring for your soul? Take it to your own personal “garden” and:

Plant It - Recognize that your soul is a delicate plant and you need to take an active part in helping it grow. The greatest gift God

has given us is our life. Our soul is the essence of our life and the part that will live on into eternity. Once we truly grasp this truth we will recognize the care of our soul should be our highest priority.

Water it - Take time for rest and reflection and, most of all, prayer. When meeting the woman at the well Jesus told her He was the Living Water. He has made us the same offer. Take Him up on it. When we sit down to talk and listen to Him in prayer we will find refreshment and strength for the day.

Fertilize it - Every plant needs to be fed so it can grow strong. If we don't feed our souls with words from the Bible, worship, and fellowship with

other Christians, the storms of life will topple us.

Pull up the weeds - Actively look for sin in your life. Pull it out by the roots and work hard to make the changes necessary so it doesn't return.

Nurture It - Treat your soul kindly - ask for, and truly accept, God's forgiveness when you do something wrong. God has extended His grace to us, make sure you accept it and live with a new lease on life.

Take it out in the sun - Bring your soul out into the light of day and let it shine - it is through our day-to-day activities, work, home, and school, and the relationships and people we come in contact with, that we truly begin to

grow.

Share the harvest with others - Your harvest is the Fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. Share this fruit with everyone you come in contact with today.

The Gardener - Jesus, the Master Gardener, is always with you in your garden. He is continually tending your soul with you. He knows the seasons change, and storms will come. He offers help and support in troubled times and His love in good times and bad.

Be intentional in the care of your soul. Make it your highest priority today and tomorrow. The rewards are eternal.

The Fair is Coming

No, it's not the State Fair. It's the Fair Trade Fair. Last year Koinonia Boomerang hosted the first ever Fair Trade Fair at Cross of Hope. We're doing it again!

A Fair Trade Fair is a way developed countries can help artisans and farmers from small third world countries export their locally made products. The money from your purchases goes directly to support them. It's a way to make a difference by purchasing unusual handmade gifts for Christmas.

Products are not manufactured by underpaid workers in a factory in China. They come from areas like Mexico, Vietnam, Guatemala, West Bank, India, and other countries.

Invite your friends to join you November 17—20 and shop for your Christmas gifts while supporting local economies. Look for more information soon.

CROSS OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
CALLING AND EDUCATING INTO CHRIST

6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Rev. Dale G. Bauer, Pastor

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Vision: Calling and Educating into Christ

www.crossofhope.org



Worship times:

Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. or Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

RAYS OF HOPE

November 2011

Banner Babes Friendship Tea

It's time for our Friendship Tea at Cross of Hope! A fundraiser for the Banner Babes, we make quilts for our high school graduating seniors and for baby baptisms. We have also participated in the Heifer Project and purchased a goat for a woman in Africa. Join us Saturday, November 5. Call Susan McWilliam 867-5132 or Diane Carrico 554-1128 for more information or tickets.

Date: Saturday, November 5
Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Place: Cross of Hope Great Hall
Cost: \$12:00

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 6.
Change your clocks back one hour.