

The Great Season of Easter!

Jesus has been raised; he is not here. Mark 116:6

As long as the Lent journey is, Easter is longer! A great fifty days! Alleluias abound as spring unfolds around us, as school nears it's end again, and the weather warms. The resurrection of our Lord carries us closely through the year as we gather each Sunday and especially this season of new life that mother nature so clearly displays around us. The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Sunday was the favorite of Pr. Dale who will be remembered in worship on Saturday April 20. We'll gather as a community of faith touched by this ministry to give thanks for the life of Christ that is the promise of our baptism now fulfilled for him. There is hope and healing in the 'Alleluia's' of Easter and thanks be that we have such a great season through which they proclaim God's goodness in the resurrection!

God hold you in peace beloved!

Pr. Adam



Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

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 Albuquerque, NM 87120
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This Journal of Cross of Hope Lutheran Church is published each month for the enrichment of the mission ("Loving God • Transforming Relationships • Serving Others"), for the life of the people of God at Cross of Hope and our community.

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Cross of Hope School



SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Online Registration for the 2024-2025

[Click Here for Registration Details](#)

A note from Courtney Knutilla, Preschool Director, Cross of Hope Preschool was just awarded an Endowment Grant from the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA) in the amount of \$300.00 to refurbish and replenish the preschool's faith formation materials. We are so grateful for the support from the ELEA as we contemplate what we will buy in order to ensure our preschoolers are receiving the best spiritual education we can offer.

School continued on page 3

WE WANT YOUR NEWS ITEMS

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

Stewardship

Stewardship involves your time, talent and treasure. Contact the church office for assistance in getting started in any of our ministries. Please remember Cross of Hope in preparing your will.

Care Outreach

Transportation

Medical Appointments
 Other Appointments
 Necessary Errands



Emergency Meals

Family Emergency
 Illness

Assistance is available:

- www.crossofhope.org/forms
- [Email: care@crossofhope.org](mailto:care@crossofhope.org)
- In the Great hall
- Call COH office (505)897-0047x102



Love • Transform • Serve

School continued from page 2



CROSS OF HOPE SCHOOL 

Community Night

Join Us!

Showcasing student work & our unique school

APRIL 17, 2024
4:30-5:30 PM
Staff & Families

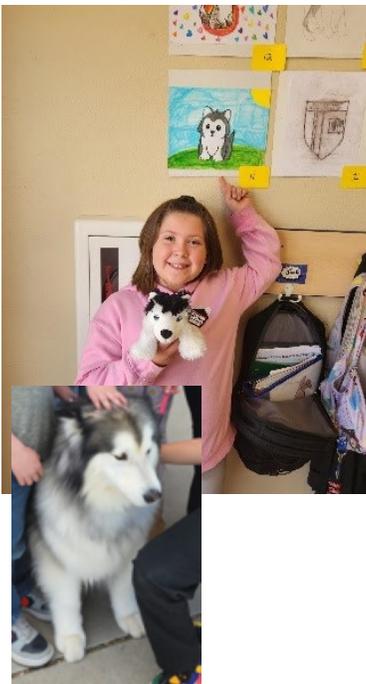
Pizza, Drinks & Cookies provided.

Following our event, we will be joining CAMP@COH for a pizza dinner. Please plan not only to attend our night, but also consider inviting someone that may be seeking a safe place to enroll their child for next school year as well.



School continued on page 4

School continued from page 3



Council Corner

by Linda Ehlers, Council Member

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever” Psalm 118 1

God is good and He guides us all to make the right decisions for the good of Cross of Hope. Happy spring to everyone at Cross of Hope from the Council. It is great that we are heading toward warmer weather and worshipping outside.

There were quite a number of topics on the agenda, for discussion during the March Council meeting. I would like to share some of the highlights from the meeting.

The Council meeting begins with a call to order by the president, a special devotion by one of the members, an opening prayer by Pastor, and taking of attendance by the secretary. The first thing on the agenda is to approve the consent agenda. This contains the previous month’s minutes and any other item that may have been discussed and approved at a time other than during the meeting.

Susan Rivera, Director of School Ministries, presented an update on a number of school activities. Last month the Council approved a motion to provide families of returning students with a \$50 early registration discount during the first two weeks of open registration. Susan was pleased to announce that the families of 31 of the 55 current elementary students took advantage of the offer.

Since the beginning of the 2023-2024 school calendar year there have been several fundraisers. The school is hoping to use the profits toward purchasing shade structures for the outdoor play area. The only shade structure is over the preschool playground. The elementary students are always in the sun.

Our Physical Education teacher is a doctoral candidate at UNM. He will be supervising PE student teacher candidates and would like them to learn here at our school. This is an exciting opportunity for us to partner with the school. There is no salary, contract, or insurance required, only background checks which have already been completed. They will wear proper ID and they will not work with students unsupervised.

The school has also been asked about a high school senior at Albuquerque Academy shadowing one of our teachers as part of their senior project (about 20-30 total hours).

These types of requests are presented to the Council to keep them aware of what is going on and to keep a record of the action by including them in the minutes.

The Council approved the motion to have our HVAC vendor change duct work and add adjustable vent in the teachers’ work room. He will also add drain line hoses from the roof top AC units to divert condensation.

The COH Council members are doing an excellent job for the Community. The discussions, comments and decisions made at the meetings are for the better of the Congregation. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact one of the members.

Margie Reed, President
Linda Ehlers, Vice President
Sherrie Simek, Vice President
Tim Fuller, Secretary
Janet Conlon, Secretary
Greg Morrison, Church Treasurer
Todd Bramley, Kristi Valdez,
Bob Arseneau, Ron Wirths

Property Update

By Sherrie and Rudy Simek

COH Garden Update

By Margie Reed, Property Assistant

Happy Spring! I recently came across this gardener’s prayer and want to share it with you. I do not know who the author is, but it is so appropriate.



“The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds
for mirth, one is nearer God’s heart in a garden than
anywhere else on earth.”

Being outside and gardening is a fun type of activity and provides plenty of exercise for the gardener.

Flowers are popping up everywhere in the Cross of Hope Gardens and they are beautiful and colorful.

But weeds are everywhere. Those cute little plants with pretty purple or pink flowers that cover the ground in the garden aren’t flowers, but nasty weeds. You cannot just pull them; each one has to be dug up by hand because of the deep roots. They love to snuggle up to the plants, which makes it even harder to get them out of the ground.

I personally tip my gardening hat and thank Ruth Hinkel for all the years she took care of the gardens. I would occasionally help Ruth but now since I have been attending to the plants, rose bushes and shrubs in the circle gardens and along the west side of the Church door I am learning just how much work and love Ruth put into taking care of them.

New topsoil will be applied to the gardens and a border is planned for the area along the sidewalk where there is an assortment of rocks. This should help keep the soil in the garden and not spill onto the sidewalk when it rains.

John Lacher can be seen on Kachina Street attending to the trees, shrubs, and plants.

I believe Rudy and Sherrie Simek and Rich Mohr-Kelly have cleaned up just about every leaf in and around the COH property. Now they are working in the garden they planted by the southeast fence. They are working on the big job of controlling and cleaning-up of weeds behind the sheds, in the rocks on the south side by the Fire station, and in front of the Church.

There was a nasty stump in the south lawn where outdoor services are held so Sherrie and Rudy rented a stump removal machine and went to work getting that stump out. Now the area is filled with dirt, grass seed and fertilizer. It is good to know that it will make the area safer for our members when they walk on the lawn.

The area next to the big circle garden where the water pipes came apart and caused a major flooding has been repaired. A new water box has been installed in the circle garden and in the south garden by the wall to provide a turnoff valve if another problem occurs, which we pray does not happen.

Most of the garden and lawn areas now have water thanks to the work of Rudy and Sherrie. They installed the tubes and sprinkler heads where needed. Sherrie said she thinks she now knows almost everything about sprinklers and how to install them – do I see a new career?

Camp @ COH (Wednesday Evenings)

Camp resumes April 10 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. We serve meals, have all camp activities, do Bible study, and end the evening with a campfire worship including s'mores.

If you are interested in helping out or being a part of this fun ministry, go to the crossofhope.org website and sign up at the Camp@COH location under Upcoming Events or Youth tab.

Community Outreach News

Spring Service Project



Benefiting Cuidando los Niños

The mission of Cuidando Los Niños is to break the cycle of homelessness for children and families. To learn more visit their website at <https://clnabq.org>

The following items are needed:

- shampoo and conditioner (Full Size)
- Lotion
- Women's deodorant
- body wash
- Loofas
- brushes and hair ties
- kids 3in1 wash
- toothpaste/toothbrush
- Toilet Paper



Please bring the items you'd like to donate by 4/10/24

Pet Food Drive

Cross of Hope is holding a pet food drive on April 21st to collect pet food and supplies to donate to Watermelon Ranch, a no kill animal shelter in Rio Rancho.

They especially need the following items (New & unopened):

- Dry dog food
- Dry cat food
- Cat litter
- Bleach
- Fabuloso

PLEASE BRING DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH BY APRIL 21ST.



Thanks for helping our animal friends.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will get together this month April 10, at 1pm

The Range at Cottonwood Plaza

If you plan on going please contact Leon Carrico at 505-554-1128, leon.carrico@gmail.com





The Mission of Cross of Hope Faith Connections Group

To provide an opportunity for all people to share Christ's love and authentic community in a small group setting where lives are transformed through growth in faith and service to others.

COH Small Group Ministry

Easter 2024 Searching for . . .

3/31/24	Life	Mark 16:1-18		Easter
4/7/24	Peace	John 20:19-13	Jesus and Thomas	Easter 2
4/14/24	Community	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus' peace in center of community	Easter 3
4/21/24	Guidance	John 10:11-18	Shepherd lays down life for sheep	Easter 4
4/28/24	Nourishment	John 15:1-8	Vine and Branches	Easter 5





The Happy Hope-r

Patty Westerfield

By Mary Bresnahan



Birthdate: June 4, 1957

Marriage: May 27, 1978 (Mike)

Children: Susan and Karen

Occupation: Nurse's Aide, Teacher's Aide, Operation Room Orderly, BP The Byte Works, Inc., Retired

Birthplace: Colorado Springs, CO

Where:

Grandchildren: 5-Aubriella (Ella), Coen, Connor, Vivian, Clara

Hobbies: reading, making suncatchers, quilting, needlepoint, being with grandkids

Patty is the oldest of three children born to Harvey and Pat Connor. She has two brothers: David, one year younger and Bill, four years younger. Harvey was an Electrical Engineer and worked for Bell Labs, Bellcomm and AT&T. When the mission to the moon was made a priority, he was one of the first to be involved in it. So, Patty and her family moved from New Jersey to Maryland and lived there from the time she was in kindergarten until she was in high school. Harvey was very quiet, very kind, and very smart. Patty remembers her mom calling her dad to come watch the TV when the fire on the launch pad broke out killing three astronauts. He worked late many nights after that. Harvey was also on the team to determine where the astronauts would moonwalk during one of the Apollo missions.

Patty's mom was much more outgoing than her dad. She stopped working at Bell Labs when she and Harvey got married and kept herself busy raising three children. Pat was Catholic, and Harvey was Methodist. When they married it was decided that Pat would raise kids in the Catholic Church. Patty remembers being told in catechism class, at the age of seven, only Catholics were going to heaven. This meant her dad wouldn't be there. Patty decided they were wrong. Over the years this left her at odds with any religious teachings that were exclusive rather than inclusive.

When Patty was 11, her grandmother moved in with them. Patty really enjoyed her grandmother's company. They were good friends. At 18, Patty was off to Colorado State University. She chose that school because at the age of 1 ½ they moved away from Colorado. Patty's mom always talked about how beautiful it was there. Additionally, John Denver and his song, "Rocky Mountain High" were very popular in 1975. In college Patty attended the Catholic Church and joined the campus Baptist Student Union (BSU). She liked the BSU for its fellowship and emphasis on reading the Bible.

Patty met Mike (who was also Catholic) at one of the statewide Baptist Student Union retreats. Mike was a senior attending the Air Force Academy. He graduated in 1977 with a B.S. in Physics and was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. They married at the end of Patty's junior year (1978) and she finished her B.S. in Psychology in 1980. While they lived in Denver Patty's jobs included a

Patty continued from page 9

Nurse's Aide on an OB GYN floor, a Teacher's Aide with emotionally and behaviorally disturbed children, and a Hospital Operating Room Orderly.

Mike's first job in the Air Force was programming an IBM 360 computer to manage satellites. Personal computers were brand new and Mike was anxious to get one. When Mike's car was totaled (while it was parked in the apartment parking lot), he and Patty decided to take the insurance money and buy a computer. This left them using the bus system in Denver as their only transport.

They purchased an Apple II computer and Mike spent his free time learning to program it. During this time, he finished his M.S. in Physics at the University of Denver. The Air Force then transferred Patty and Mike to Albuquerque so Mike could attend UNM and get his Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics. He never finished his Ph.D. By this time, 1983, some of the software programs Mike had written started to make money.

Also in 1983, Mike and Patty started The Byte Works, Inc. Mike worked for the Air Force during the day and wrote software at night and on weekends. Getting out of the Air Force and dropping out of the Ph.D. program meant Mike owed the Air Force time for the investment they made in his education. That meant for every one day he spent in school he owed them three days of work. Luckily, he was stationed at Kirkland AFB and they didn't have to move. He was in the Air Force until 1986.

Patty and Mike's daughters arrived: Susan in 1984, and Karen in 1985. Production and shipping of the software produced for The Byte Works happened in the space meant to be a living room in their house. Needless to say, there were lots of computers around when the girls were growing up. Over the years, The Byte Works moved out of the house and into an office, back into the house, until it faded into the background and Patty and Mike found jobs at other companies.

When the girls were five and six, Patty went looking for a church. Jackie Webster, who was one of the two people who worked with Patty and Mike, was a member of Cross of Hope. Her experiences of Las Posadas, the Cross Walk, and her stories about the friendliness of the congregation convinced Patty to join Cross of Hope. While Mike never became involved, he has always been supportive of Patty and the girls.

Patty joined the New Members class and a Koinonia group. She also joined Pastor Dale (Bauer), Janet Wormwood and Sharon Pearson in starting the Stephen Ministry at Cross of Hope a few years later.

I was wondering what influenced Patty to be involved with special needs individuals. While in college she participated in the Special Olympics and was a camp counselor at the Easter Seals Handicamp one summer. Early jobs tell of her leaning toward caring for and being involved with individuals who have special needs. Patty's major in psychology fits her leanings and interests. Patty is always quietly helping people and applying what she learned in college and life.

Even though we don't know Mike personally, now we know something about him and how he is a part of Patty's life.

Patty continued from page 10

Special Needs Vacation Bible School got started in 1996. Each year God sends amazing youth and adult volunteers, along with students of all ages. Patty talks about this as “God’s Love in Action.” Indeed. Patty says she has gotten a lot of recognition for this, but truly feels the parents of these students are the real heroes.

Over the years Patty has been on the church council, facilitated adult Sunday School classes and written a discipleship column in the Rays of Hope.

Patty is now spending some of her retirement time reading and exploring spirituality more. She is a fan of Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation. He wrote her now favorite book, “The Universal Christ.” In it he explains God’s love for all of us. She is finally reassured that we all belong to God and she needn’t worry about what others have said over the years of who is, and isn’t, going to heaven.

Patty quietly goes about visiting and helping some of our homebound members. She usually attends the first service and sits in the back. Give her a “hi” when you see her.

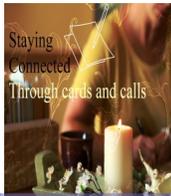
A Pilgrimage to Santuario de Chimayo

by Sherrie Simek

Rudy and I were introduced to the pilgrimage to Chimayo in 1980 by Rudy’s boss at the time. With the exception of two COVID years, this marks Rudy’s 44th year of walking the journey. Over the years, he has walked from as far away as the Santa Fe National Cemetery, 26 miles, to our starting point these days, The Cities of Gold Casino, 12 miles. When my sister, Terrie , retired and became our driver, I began walking a few miles each year. This year, I completed 8.5 miles, the most I’ve ever walked. Throughout the years, we have been accompanied by family and friends. This year we were joined by Art Kavanaugh and RC Jordan.



A testament of faith and belief is displayed by the support of the two small communities in Northern New Mexico, Nambe and Chimayo. Thousands of people descend on these communities over the course of Easter weekend, particularly Good Friday. They are some of the most welcoming people, setting up tables laden with water, oranges, bananas, and coffee in front of their homes and along the route. There is a strong police, first responder and volunteer presence ensuring we pilgrims are supported and safe.



Heart Strings

Members of COH unable to worship with us on

Zach Zimmer	2
Judy Will	4
David Wilson	4
Herah LaChance	4
Kimberly O’Roark	6
Boden Bencomo	6
Kathy Bramley	7
Tanya Zynda	9
Pat Holman	10
Elyse Benhem	11
Steve Spinks	12
April Abeyta	14
Philip Wangberg	16
Zoey Gentile/Martinez	18
Charlie Anderson	21
Hunter Streff	22
Brant St-Martin	22
Brantley St-Martin	28
Dawna Pascarella	29
Laura Benchik	29

Edee Bauer
2301 Golf Course Rd SE
Apt. 1106
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Karen Reiten
899-1504
4841 Shin Avenue NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

Carroll Werling
Palmilla Senior Living,
10301 Golf Course Rd NW
- Apt. 144
Albuquerque, NM 87114

	Day	Years Married
Jan Anderson and Dale McCabe	11	32
Dave and Gretchen Comfort	15	46
Anthony and Deborah Rivera	17	48
Pete and Janet Wormwood	20	34
Richard and Pat Mohr-Kelly	28	24

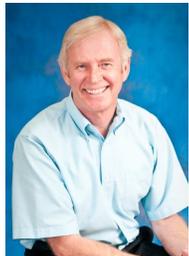
Address Updates

Elisa Mclellan
2428 Rice Ave NW Unit A
Albuquerque NM, 87104-2755



Pastor Dale Bauer

May God grant him eternal rest, and let perpetual light shine upon him.



Former pastor of Cross of Hope, Dale Bauer died March 18, 2024. A memorial service is scheduled to be held Saturday, April 20 at 10:00 am at Cross of Hope Church, 6104 Taylor Ranch Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120.

Please keep his wife Edee in prayer. Send cards to:
Edee Bauer
 2301 Golf Course Rd SE, Apt. 1106
 Rio Rancho, NM 87124

. . . As a charter member of Cross of Hope, I was on the call committee for a new pastor. Pastor Dale officiated at Peter’s and my wedding 34 years ago! He must have done something right as we celebrate our anniversary in April.

Pastor Dale loved teaching. He taught the Sunday School class “Bible 101”, where I learned the history of the writing of the Bible. Rest in peace, good and faithful servant, **Janet Wormwood**



Pastor Dale was an integral part of my family’s faith journey. Janie and I were in his first new members class at COH. He laid a faith foundation for us as parents and to our children who grew and participated in youth activities that were established here. May he rest in peace, **Ron Cordova**



Pastor Dale’s favorite hymn was “I Love to Tell the Story” and we all loved singing it with him. Dale drove an old orange Bronco which offered him many laughs and jokes. He loved that truck! **John and Sue McWilliam**

I am so grateful my time at Cross of Hope has included when Dale Bauer was pastor. He encouraged all of us to grow in our relationship to God, and to reach out to the community near and far and encouraged us to listen to what God was calling us to do. . . **Patty Westerfield**

One of my cherished memories of Pastor Dale was his passion for new members to become involved in Koinonia. His guidance and wisdom had a significant impact on my life. **Deborah Rivera**

It was sad to hear about Pastor Dale. He loved our preschool tea parties and gifted me with one of his mother’s tea pots. **Ann Martin, Preschool teacher**

He was accepting of people’s ideas and several times when someone came to him with an idea for ministry outreach, he would say, “Why don’t you lead that” - Las Posadas and Pardi Gras grew out of those ideas. **Carolyn and Robert Bye**



Church telephone message from Dale . . . “Come and join us as we are a group of friendly folks Walking in the light of the Lord.” ...**Linda Willoughby, Church Administrator**



It is not possible to think of our family’s beginning without Pastor Dale. . . His in-depth, historical based sermons had us hooked.

Richard and Erin Hielkema

In 2008 I was "church shopping." I was looking for a place that was active in various ministries and welcoming. I knew immediately that Cross of Hope was the place. Over the years, I have been involved in various ministries. I have never regretted my decision. I found my spiritual home.

Dale was human, vulnerable, playful, thoughtful, open and welcoming. Dale accepted his fate. He always loved the people at Cross of Hope. Now Dale dwells in the house of the Lord forever.

Mary Bresnahan

My life of faith was profoundly impacted by Dale Bauer – by a promise he made to his mother and his lifelong dedication to God’s calling, his blameless character and honorable reputation. As the first principal of Cross of Hope Elementary School, I had the privilege and blessing of working with Dale to be a part of his dream to build a school on the Cross of Hope Church campus. . . Well done, good and faithful servant of God. Your eternal rewards will be numerous.

Sheri Phillips



Chimayo continued from page 11

We have walked in every type of weather imaginable, snow, sleet, rain, wind and sunshine, once the sun rises. This year was the best weather we have experienced.

Rudy likes to start early, around 4:30 AM for two reasons. 1) He says, “You can’t see how big the hills are in the dark!” And 2) As we make the turn to walk the last 2 -3 miles down the hills onto the church grounds, the sun rises! It is glorious!

Why a pilgrimage to Chimayo? FAITH. Rudy says “I recharge and renew my spirit, praying and reflecting along my journey”. For me, it fills my soul. If you have the opportunity, take this journey. You will be amazed!



When you need these services, please think of Rays of Hope sponsors.
 We thank them for their continued support in offsetting the costs (by \$10 per month) associated with producing Rays of Hope each month.

thrivent



Matthew J Klandrud, ChFC®, RICP®, CKA®

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Pastor Adam Berndt, Margie Reed- President,
 Sherrie Simek- Vice President, Janet Conlon-
 Secretary, Bob Arseneau, Linda Ehlers, Tim
 Fuller, Greg Morrison, Kristi Valdez, and Ron
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CAMPUS MINISTRY SUNDAY



Celebrating 60 years!

APRIL 14, 2024

OPEN HOUSE
 LUTHER HOUSE UNM & CNM
 1:00PM-4:00PM
 LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

DONATE \$60 AND CELEBRATE 60 YEARS!

1805 Las Lomas Rd. NE Albuquerque NM 87106
 www.LutherHouseNM.org



Susan Rivera, Director of School Ministry
Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School




6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
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esdirector@crossofhope.org
 School (505) 897-1832

Courtney Knutilla, Preschool Director
Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School




6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
 Albuquerque, NM 87120-2639

pssupport@crossofhope.org
 Preschool (505) 899-0928
 www.crossofhope.org

Cross of Hope Care Outreach

<p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Appointments Other Appointments Necessary Errands 		<p>Emergency Meals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Emergency Illness Death
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Assistance is available:

- www.crossofhope.org/forms
- Email: care@crossofhope.org
- In the Great Hall
- Call COH office (505)897-0047x102



CROSS OF HOPE
 Church & School
 Love • Transform • Serve

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Mission Statement

Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God.

 Rev. R. Adam Berndt, Pastor

505-897-0047 • office@crossofhope.org
www.crossofhope.org

Facebook Page: Cross of Hope Church

Worship Times:

On-Site Sunday - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday - 10:45 a.m.

Digital: Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Devotions: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

April Book Suggestions

Recommended by Dee Gutierrez

The Measure of a Man - Gene A. Getz

Gene Getz delivers the newly enhanced message of what it takes to be a man of God. Men will gain encouragement for what they can be in Christ as fathers, husbands, and mentors to other men.

Reaching For the Invisible God - Philip Yancey

Philip's personal and introspective book, which explores times of doubt, silence, and confusion that occur in the Christian life, and gives practical hints on how to cope with the inevitable problems that arise in a relationship with a God who is invisible.

Broken Crayons Still Color: From Our Mess to God's Masterpiece- Shelley Hitz

(A 7-week book study) This will inspire you with real stories of how God can take our broken crayons and create a masterpiece.