
Mount Cross Chronicle

January 2012



601 E. Highway 260
Payson, AZ 85541
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www.mountcross.org

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 a.m. Traditional
10:30 a.m. Praise Service
6:30 p.m. XaLT

Pastor

Rev. Glenn Zimbelman
363-0155
pastorinjeans@gmail.com

Director of Discipleship

Janice Zimbelman
363-0151
imacoffeebean99@gmail.com

Music Director/Organist

Dr. Victoria Harris

Praise Team Leader

Wes Hathaway
praise@mountcross.org

Church Secretary

Lenore M. White
secretary@mountcross.org

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Cor 5:17

January traditionally gives us an opportunity to re-frame our personal lives as we move into the New Year. Yet the fact remains that most people do not keep their New Year's resolutions, which is why health clubs are full in January and revert back to normal about March. It does take resolve, determination, and the Holy Spirit to change. We are a new creation and that creative process is ongoing! We won't realize the full extent of our growth this side of heaven. Perhaps the biggest danger to our own growth as a congregation and as individuals is when we become satisfied. One clue to complacency is that we already have an excuse which keeps us inactive. Those excuses might be, I am not qualified, I am afraid, I don't have the time, or I am too old to grow. If God can use an old, tired, childless couple in Abraham and Sarah to start an entire nation, God can use us!

Paul says in the scripture passage above that we are a new creation; God is challenging, forming, guiding and encouraging us as God's people. We can help in the process mostly by just being open to the Spirit. Creation often begins with seeds, so the following are some seeds for your consideration:

A. *Mount Cross Lutheran Church as a New Creation*

On Saturday, January 21st from 9 to 3 pm we will be having an **All Church Planning Day**. This day is open to anyone in the church but especially people who sit on boards, committees, and ministry teams. We will be looking at and praying for what God might have in store for this church in 2012. Where do we need to improve? What can we do to be more visible in the community? How can we grow closer as Mount Cross Disciples? What are some goals that a particular committee might have? Some ideas will surface and will remain an idea until God provides people. Some ideas will inspire those that might not be involved to get excited about a new ministry. Some ideas will be dreams for the following year and perhaps make it into next year's church budget. My hope is that we will then share our dreams and ideas with the congregation and invite others to join in the journey of faith.

B. *Mount Cross Disciples as a New Creation*

Prayerfully consider doing one thing new this year to grow in your faith. It might be to attend a Sunday morning Bible Study or get involved in Mount Cross Cares. Another option is to look at your personal Spiritual Habits of Prayer, Bible Reading, and Worship, and find ways to go deeper in your faith. Consider your community Spiritual Habits of Serving, Tithing, and Spiritual Relationships (Small Groups) and see where God's Spirit is directing you. We will continue to offer classes to assist you in your journey.

The really cool thing is when we open ourselves up to God's creative Spirit, amazing things happen, both in our personal and spiritual lives! I have seen it over and over again in ministry.

Looking forward to seeing what God will do with Mount Cross in 2012!

Pastor Glenn



Our STATEMENT . . .

To proclaim Christ as Lord and Savior
through joyful worship, prayer,
life long learning,
active and loving service.

FAITH FORMATION REFLECTIONS

1 Cor. 9:24-25 You know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize. So run to win! All those who compete in the games use self-control so they can win a crown. That crown is an earthly thing that lasts only a short time, but our crown will never be destroyed.

Good habits or bad habits? Discipline, ugh! This is the time of year when many make resolutions to change bad habits, create good habits; resolutions usually revolve around healthy lifestyles (eat better, exercise regularly, quit smoking, etc.). Changing those bad habits takes work and much discipline, something many of us have a hard time with! So, we quickly slip back into old habits; they are comfortable, easy, don't take much thought or effort.

Paul alludes to the work of discipline in his letter to the Corinthians: those who compete use self-control so they can win the prize. In other words, athletes focus on the goal of winning and by doing so, discipline themselves to develop habits all aimed at accomplishing the goal: win the prize. Yes, it takes discipline and hard work, but they will tell you it is all worth it after they have won. Focus on the goal - winning.

Our natural tendency: eat junk food which produces jaded palates, flabby bodies, and poor digestion; let the pace and pressures of life get out of control and sap our physical and spiritual energy. Our response, at least for a short time, is to put much time and energy into programs designed to improve our eating and exercise habits, and reduce stress. The problem: that takes energy we often do not have unless we have a serious health issue and the doctor mandates it, or if we have an excellent support system that will keep us accountable and focused on the goal - better health.

Yes, discipline is hard work; but the rewards are great. Several years ago, Glenn and I decided we were going to really work at eating healthy. We both lost weight and felt better. For the most part, we've been able to maintain good eating habits. We also work at trying to get regular exercise. But, it takes discipline. The other day, my mom gave us a bag of peppermint bark, yum! Every time I walk by that bowl, a piece jumps into my hand all by itself! What happened to my discipline? I lost focus on the goal - maintaining good health.

As Christians, we need to be disciplined in practicing our faith (pray daily, daily Bible reading, worship weekly, develop spiritual friendships, serve within and outside the Mount Cross community, and give generously/tithe). These regular faith practices help us grow strong in our faith; our spiritual training. As Paul states to the Corinthians, we 'run' not for an earthly crown, but for an eternal crown. We need to train spiritually as if we are running the marathon of a lifetime; stay focused on the goal - building God's kingdom.

This month, we resume our discipleship classes; please participate for your own growth. There is also an opportunity to participate in an all day planning session, to be part of developing goals and a vision for Mount Cross. What would God have us be as His Church in Payson?

Practice your faith daily. Train for your spiritual marathon. Help Mount Cross train for our church's marathon. Let's support each other in being spiritually disciplined, staying focused on the goal - building God's kingdom; thinking 'only about the things in heaven, not the things on earth.' (Col 3:2)

In Christ's love,
Jan Zimbelman

LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES OF NORTHERN ARIZONA

LOMONA IS AN ACRONYM FOR LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES OF NORTHERN ARIZONA

MONTH OF JANUARY 2012

CHURCH SPONSORED ACTIVITIES:

WEEKLY

MONDAY: BOY SCOUT MEETINGS
TUESDAY: MOUNT CROSS CARES
THURSDAY: SCOUT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MONTHLY

1ST THURSDAY: DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE
2ND THURSDAY: CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
4TH THURSDAY: CUB SCOUT PACK MEETINGS
3RD WEDNESDAY: FRIENDSHIP CLUB
4TH WEDNESDAY: WELCA QUILTERS

RENTAL BOOKINGS FOR DECEMBER 2011:

WEEKENDS

1. LOVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

DAY USAGE

1. LOMONA BAZAAR
2. MUSIC/STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY
3. CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY - HOSTED BY LOMONA
4. TURNER WEDDING RECEPTION

RETREAT WEEKENDS: 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS

TOTAL DAY USE: 5

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE HAS PUT IN A CABINET IN THE AUDIO/VISUAL CLOSET, WHICH GIVES US A LOT MORE ROOM. AN ADDITIONAL CLOSET IS IN THE PROCESS IN BEING BUILT, WITHIN THE LARGE CLOSET, FOR LOMONA.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. WITHOUT YOUR HELP WE COULDN'T HAVE SUCCESSFUL BAZAAR. THE BAZAAR BROUGHT IN \$1,672.88; THRIVENT MATCHED \$500.00, THUS THE GRAND TOTAL WAS \$2,172.88. THE MONEY WILL BE USED TO DEFRAY THE COSTS OF UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE IN THE LOG BUILDING AND DORM. I LIKE TO GIVE CHARLOTTE ROBINSON A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" FOR ORGANIZING THE BAZAAR.

LET'S ALL HAVE A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS YEAR.

MARYANN ROWE

LOMONA DIRECTOR

LOMONA@MOUNTCROSS.ORG

928-474-3787



Bells and Chancel Choir will resume practice on Thursday, January 12.
Bells at 6:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.

PAYSON COMMUNITY MEALS

Mount Cross, along with the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal churches, are discussing the feasibility of offering a meal which will be available to those in the community who choose to come. There are topics that need to be addressed and solidified before this will happen. On December 20, the group met to explore some of the unanswered questions. Grants for funding are submitted and still pending. We can probably join the United Food Bank and receive some food at no cost, other food at 12 cents a pound and food from St. Vincent DePaul at no cost. A steering committee was organized to address solutions with Gary DeVar and June Schranz as the representatives from Mount Cross. As the group is presented with suitable answers, it will proceed. We also decided on a name, *Payson Community Meal*. The decision was made to hold the meal once a month on the 2nd Thursday in the log building. As all must be in place to have a successful ministry, nothing will probably be started until early Spring. With the four groups working together, we can accomplish much.

June Schranz

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 29, 2012 between services. Annual Report approval will be on the agenda.



Mount Cross Financial Report (January- November 2011)

Approved Budget Commitment.	\$254,532.66 (91.6 % of 2011 budget)
Income.	\$256,673.24 (92.4 % of 2011 budget)
Expenditures.. . . .	\$239,658.48 (86.3 % of 2011 budget)

Total Contributions to the Building Fund as of 12-19-2011. \$624,656.76
Total Commitments to the Building Fund. \$ 715,900.00

Income received from Safeway's eScrip Program in 2011. \$322.06
Have you registered for the Safeway Program? Forms are beneath the mailboxes. There is no cost to you, but there will be income for Mount Cross.

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2011
Mount Cross. \$3,821.00
LOMONA. \$1,425.00

I encourage those of you who are Thrivent members and haven't taken the opportunity to look into this grant program, please go to www.thrivent.com, and click on Thrivent Choice. Or you can call 1-800 THRIVENT (800-847-4836).

Thanks also to all disciples who continue to faithfully contribute from their treasures in order to enable Mount Cross to continue the ministries God has given to us.

Ray Wiebe
2011 Financial Secretary



Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, between services. Agenda: approval of annual report. Annual Reports will be placed in church mailboxes by Sunday, January 15th.

LECTORS NEEDED!

If you would like to participate in the worship service through the use of your voice and reading abilities, please contact Todd Schatz at 951-6477.

*To my wonderful Mount Cross friends,
"Thank You" doesn't seem
to express how very much I
appreciate the gifts of love
I have received from you
during the holiday season.
I feel so very blessed to be the secretary of this
church and could never be able to express how
very special all of you are to me!*
Lenore

HELPING HANDS FOR THE NAVAJO LUTHERAN MISSION

Mount Cross disciples are continuing to raise money for our Navajo Heating Fund. This very cold winter has caused the need for more frequent propane fills. We are well on our way to reaching half of our Mount Cross goal of sending \$6,000 to the Mission this winter for heating. Some disciples have given the profits from a garage sale, and others gave CHRISTmas gifts toward this fund. When you receive your own heating bill, calculate 1-2% of your bill and consider donating that amount to the Navajo Heating Fund. You may contribute checks made out to Mount Cross and put Navajo Heating in the memo line. Cash or checks designated for the Mission can be placed in the Sunday offering, in the small furnaces in Fellowship Hall, or can be mailed to the church office at 601 E. Highway 260.

Another way to help the Navajo Lutheran Mission involves saving the UPC bar code on the Campbell's Soup labels, as well as other Campbell's products. Over several years, the volume of these labels has enabled the Navajo Mission School to obtain vans, buses and miscellaneous equipment and supplies for the Mission. These small labels can be placed in a container on the information table by the entrance to Mount Cross. As you use Campbell's soups, remember to cut off the barcode from the paper label.



In addition, the Box Tops for Education Program offered by General Mills can also be given to the Mission. These labels generate points that are reimbursed to the Mission in dollars. The labels are found on more than 100 different General Mills products, and they are only about one inch long. They can also be placed in the same container as the soup labels.

A fourth way to help the Navajo Mission is to sponsor a child at the school for the cost of tuition, \$800.00 per year which is tax deductible as charitable giving and can be sent directly to the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission at P.O. Box 354 in Rock Point, AZ, 86545-0354. An Arizona resident can also participate in sponsorship of tuition in any amount through the Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization (ACSTO). If you designate the Navajo Mission School as the recipient, you can receive a dollar-for-dollar credit against the taxpayer's Arizona state income tax up to \$1,000 for a couple and \$500.00 for single taxpayers. Call 480-820-0403 for more information or go on-line to www.acsto.com.

Karyl Blair
Global Mission Team



**All Church Planning Day
Saturday, January 21st
9 am to 3 pm**

This day is aimed at anyone from Mount Cross but especially if you sit on a board or committee. We will be looking at goal setting for both church and our individual ministry areas. This day will also provide an opportunity to update people on Missional Leadership Academy information and to reflect and pray about where God needs us to go as a church. Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$5 and we need you to sign up by contacting Lenore at the church office or on the Pillar of Thanks in Fellowship Hall under the "How Can I Help?" section. Deadline to sign up is January 15th.



Tough Questions

On Thursday, January 12, at 10 A.M., the women's Bible Study will meet at the home of Nancy Peiffer at 800 N. Graham Ranch Road in Payson. We will meet at the church parking lot at 9:45 to pool rides. Bring a bag lunch if you are able to stay for fellowship after the Bible Study. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Call Nancy at 468-0860 with questions. All women and friends are invited to join us for whatever length of time you can stay.

Our study will include the tough questions Jesus answers in Mark 10: 1-52. The Pharisees raised questions about divorce and Jesus emphasized God's intention in a relationship. Jesus repeatedly placed those who are "little and least" at the center of all God is doing in the world, including the children. Children are worthy teachers of what it means to enter into God's gracious presence. Neither status nor prestige automatically move any of us closer to the God we meet in Jesus. The passage being studied includes the young man who asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life or how can he be in God's presence now. This account sets a warning flag atop all stockpiles of acquired riches and resources. It ends in Mark 10:22 as the only description in Mark of a person who walks away from a direct call to follow Jesus. Bartimaeus, however, let go of his few possessions to follow Jesus. In Mark, a variety of people hear Jesus calling them to follow. For each one that follows, some measure of joy and courage are required to respond to the tough questions.



January Birthdays

- 3 Shannon Romberger
- 6 Jerry Carlson
- 7 Gertrude Hull-Bayles
Paul Serfling
- 9 George Larson
- 10 June Richter
- 11 Doral Romberger
- 12 Jim Cheek
- 13 Elva Jones
- 16 Zach Horsley
- 18 Julie Humphries
- 21 John Shoemaker
- 24 Renee Layson
Kathryn Lee
- 25 Ben Rogers
- 26 Bob Marley
Dick VanAntwerp
- 30 Dean Harpe
Gail Hewlett
- 31 Wes Hathaway

January Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Jim/Terri Cheek
- 12 Howard/Renee Layson
- 13 Claude/Delores Pugh
- 19 Gary/Carol Karlowski
- 23 Russ/Helen Christofferson



- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Council President | Linda Grosser |
| Vice President | Brian Cassens |
| Secretary | John Shoemaker |
| Financial Secretary | Sylvia Erickson |

Council Members

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Richard Hull | Carol McNulty |
| Mary Kennedy | Terri Vlahovich |

Discipleship/Faith Growth Opportunities

It is anticipated that all Mount Cross disciples attend these educational opportunities in order to grow in our faith journey.

Catch a Vision (held in Fellowship Hall)

Come to the All Church Planning Day to work on visioning and goal setting for Mount Cross. Aimed at anyone from Mount Cross, but especially if you sit on a board or committee.

Jan 21 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (\$5.00 for lunch)

RSVP to church office by Jan 15

Discipleship 101: What in the world is discipleship?

Learn what it means to be a disciple of Christ. We will provide an overview of the marks of discipleship as a guide for growing in our faith walk with Christ; taught by Pastor Glenn and Jan.

Jan 11 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Basic Bible Reading: How on earth does this book apply to me? (attend ONE session)

The second mark of discipleship is read the Bible daily. Learn ways to read and study the Bible; taught by Jan.

Jan 10 1:30 - 3:00 PM

Jan 19 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Jan 25 10:30 AM - Noon

Prayer 101: Ways to communicate with God

The first mark of discipleship is pray daily. Learn different ways to communicate with God and strategies to incorporate more prayer in your daily life; taught by Jan.

Jan 16 1:30 - 3:00 PM

Jan 26 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Bible the Big Story (attend 101, 201, AND 301)

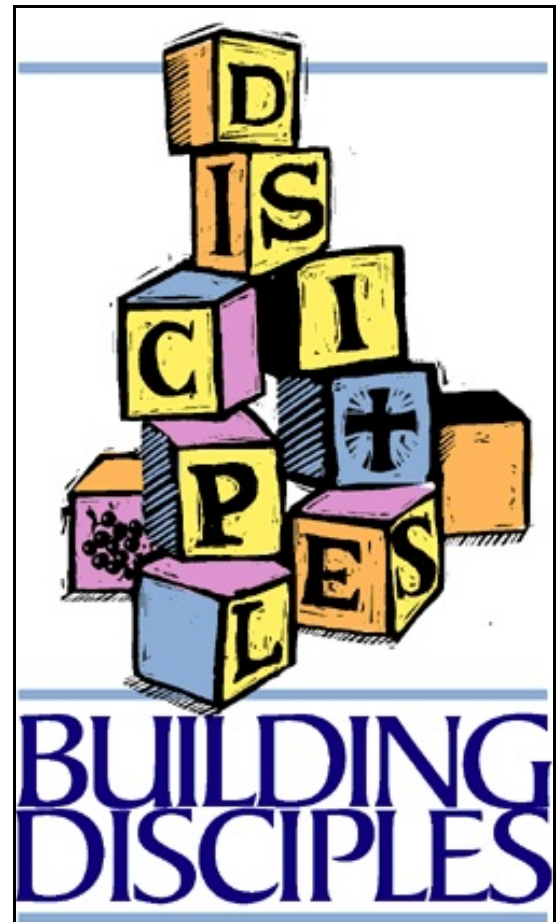
Provides an overview of the entire Bible; taught by Pastor Glenn. This will provide a framework for understanding the Bible so people are more comfortable with God's word.

101: Jan 24 6:30 - 8:00 PM

201: Jan 31 6:30 - 8:00 PM

301: Feb 7 6:30 - 8:00 PM

All classes will be held in the Luke room, unless otherwise noted.



Men's Ministry Planning: What Do You Want To Do?

Men's gathering on Saturday, Feb. 4th from 9 am to 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. This time is aimed at all Men for us to explore the question, "If we are to start a Men's Ministry at Mount Cross, what would it look like?" Men's Ministry ideas could include: attending sporting events, enjoying a breakfast Bible study, going on Retreats, exploring service opportunities, and of course, our ever popular Thursday morning crew. The ELCA has a formal Men's Ministry called *Men in Mission* and we will explore that option as well. Please contact Pastor Glenn at pastorinjeans@gmail.com or sign up on the *Pillar of Thanks* in Fellowship Hall. Deadline is January 27th for sign up.

WELCA ladies gather each month to create various sized quilts. We give quilts to a few different groups. One of the recipients of quilts was the TimeOut shelter. TimeOut has acknowledged our gift of quilts during the holiday season. Here is their words of thanks:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the very generous donation of 13 child size quilts received on December 20, 2011. We so much appreciate your ongoing support.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of abuse survivors!

If you would like to join us in putting together quilts to give to well-deserving recipients, we meet in the log building at 9:00 a.m. on the 4th Wednesday.

Nancy Peiffer

WELCA president



Christmas Fun

Stepping Out Into The Community!

Mount Cross participated in two events during the Christmas season that reached out to the community.

- Mount Cross entered a "pontoon" float in the Town of Payson's Electric Light Parade, which was held on Saturday, December 3rd. Disciples handed out "Peace on Earth" bracelets with cards attached that invited the community to our Christmas Eve services. We ran out of bracelets/cards and have discovered that we will need to have more on hand next year. By the way, our float placed "1st."
- Caroling at the care facilities, as well as a couple other impromptu stops. We had the largest group of carolers participate this year (2011) than we have ever had. There were approximately 30 who raised their voices in song. Christmas joy filled the air - the joy of those listening, and the joy of those singing!

NEW MORNING TIME, NO POTLUCKS

A small group of six responded to my invitation to think about "tweaking" our format. Here's what we decided to try - if it's not good for most, we can revert or find plan "B":

- We will meet at 9:30 am on the same third Wed of the month.
- We'll start with coffee and coffeecake (other deserts optional)
- We can still have birthday/anniversary recognitions...but better stories!!

Advantages:

- less work (and expense) in preparing food—a coffeecake once every five months should be less burdensome
- For some seniors: can start "nap" at 1 o'clock sharp; the ambitious can start their projects by 11:15 or so and not have to stop.
- It was suggested that from time to time we can hear what others did before they retired. From time to time, a "timely" presentation of 20 minutes. Gary DeVar will talk about why the postal service is changing.

So mark your new 2012 calendars for Jan 18 and Feb 15 at 9:30 a.m. - "Friendship Club."

Ed Blair

Friendship Club Acting President



Wrapped in Prayer
A Prayer Shawl Ministry

Just a reminder:

If you know of someone who you feel would like to experience the comfort of prayer and receive a physical representation of those many prayers, please contact Jan Bartoli or Carol McCraney.



Many Thanks



Dear friends at Mount Cross,

I want to "thank you" for your prayers, cards, and thoughts and visits when I had the open heart surgery experience. I could feel the power of your prayers. My Church family is very special to me. With all the prayers and wonderful doctors and nurses I am recovering very well though it seems slow, but I just have to be patient.

Blessings to each one of you,

Carol McNulty

Dear Mount Cross Friends,

Thank you so much for your cards and prayers during the recent passing of my cousin, Ricky Adams, and my shoulder surgery. Your kind words have brought me much comfort, and the prayers helped to reduce my pre-surgery anxiety. I truly felt wrapped in Grace! I wish you all a healthy, blessed new year.

In His Love,

Jan Bartoli

A great big thank you to all who attended the Congregational Christmas Party, which was hosted by LOMONA. All had a good time: enjoying the food, playing games, answering trivia questions, and receiving surprise gift giveaways. Gift winners were: Mary Walker, Ed/Terri Stevens, Rod Rice, Linda Rickard, Charlotte Robinson, and Lynn/Sue Hess.

Maryann Rowe

Dear Mount Cross Family and Friends:

On December 9th our life as we knew it, forever changed, when our precious daughter Amy was severely burned in a fire. On December 12th surrounded by her family, pastor and care team, and sustained by the prayers of many she made the transition from her earthly life to the arms of Jesus. We have been deeply touched by the outpouring of love and support from our Mount Cross family through prayers, calls, emails, cards, plants, flowers, meals, prayer shawls and donations of money in memory of Amy. Donations are going to the Arizona Burn Foundation kids camp. We have felt your love, been sustained by your care and prayers, and want to send you our most sincere appreciation. We will love and miss our daughter until the day we too are called home to Jesus. In the mean time, we will do the best we can to live as Christ would have us live and love each day. May God bless each and everyone of you.

With loving hugs from,

Brian & Kerry Cassens

Mount Cross Cares Ministry provided warm jackets for those children attending whose parents requested them as some families were not in need at this time. We also delivered a food box to each of our 14 families. Thank you to all the members and friends who provided jackets and mittens and funding for this project and all the other Mount Cross Cares projects. Some of the children only had sweatshirt material hoodys in this cold weather. The kids were thrilled and warm, the mothers were so happy, some of them cried. Thanks to Basha's for their help in assisting with the food. One family was out of the area on Wednesday, so the jackets and food were delivered the next day. The mother had just driven in and was unloading the Christmas layaway and supplies she had picked up, when she saw the food box. She cried as she had just used the last of her paycheck, but enough food was now provided. Thank you all for being the hands and feet of Christ to these families.

The Mount Cross Cares Team

“Building to Serve Christ” Auction Fundraiser

Saturday, April 14th, 5 PM

Plans are forming for our first “annual” action to support our building fund. Letters will be sent out asking for donations from businesses and sports teams. Mount Cross Disciples are invited to donate items and acts of service to be auctioned off. Since it is easier to get donations from businesses if we include a charity, a portion of the profits will go to our various children outreach ministries. Auction may include dinner and entertainment but those ideas are pending. Please let me know if you can help with planning.

Pastor Glenn

Each monthly Chronicle will contain an updated auction list. This is a great event to invite friends and family. What are we looking for? See some examples below!

- Quality items (a notch or two above Garage Sale items)
- Acts of Service: For example, house cleaning, 1 pie a month for six months, air plane ride, ATV ride, pick-up load of wood...be creative!
- Any kind of class: Painting, Photography, Piano Lessons
- Time Share Weeks and Sports Tickets, Gift Certificates
- Wine and Smaller gifts to be used to make up gift baskets
- Quality hand made items: Quilts, Woodworking Items

Current List as of January 1st

- Very nice deer artwork
- Gourmet Dinner for 4 at the Pastor’s House

Please fill out form below for Auction Item and return to Pastor Glenn or the church office.

✂ ----- ✂

Name _____ Rough Value? _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Describe Item or Service:

Office Use Only: Sold To _____ Price _____