

September 2023 Newsletter



Wednesday, September 20

Community Dinner 5:30-6:30 pm Program Open House 6:30-7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY EVENING COMMUNITY GROUPS

Seasonally - September through April 5:30pm - 6:30pm - Community Meal 6:30pm-7:30pm - Small Groups (all ages)

Learn More www.crosswindslife.org



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THE COMPASS

Cross Winds United Methodist Church

15051 Weaver Lake Road Maple Grove, MN 55311 Phone: 763-494-9463 Website: crosswindslife.org Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sign Up To Stay Connected

Contact Michelle Schober to be added to the email distribution lists for

- "Cross Winds Life", distributed on Thursdays includes pastor's note, important information about the life of the church, and links for upcoming events
- Prayer Chain email updates

Finance Update

Based on our recent forecast we will head into September with our expenses year-to-date equaling the congregational giving. We will have our challenge this month as we need to stay ahead of our expenses. Accordingly, we need all your giving to support all of our CWUMC ministries and to drive down our potential deficit.

If you have not pledged for this year it's not too late and no amount is too small. We welcome all of your support, and thank you again for your blessings and giving for all of our ministries at CWUMC.

If you have questions about our 2023 Budget, pledging or questions related to our Capital Campaign Fund, Endowment Fund, or Mortgage Balance please contact us at <u>finance@crosswindsumc.org</u>

Ministry Staff

Christina Koppes Lead Pastor stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org

Michelle Schober Director of Administration michelleschober@crosswindsumc.org

Lori Lahtinen Director of Worship & Music Iorilahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Amber Lahtinen Director of Children's Ministry amber.lahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Joyce Sluss Minister of Community Engagement joycesluss@crosswindsumc.org

> Nancy Betterman Accompanist

David Hughes Treasurer treasurer@crosswindsumc.org

> Cheryl Purkat Nursery Supervisor



Pastor's Note by Stina Koppes



"So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God's glory."

~ Romans 15:7

In the Spring of 2022, we had a capital campaign pledge drive, "So All Are Welcome," which focused on the dreams God had placed in our hearts to be a welcoming church; increasing the accessibility and functionality of our facility for the benefit of the larger community. Thanks to your generosity, over \$400,000 has already been collected in pledges and we are on track to reach \$550,000 in 2024. We have opened a new commercially licensed kitchen, hosted events in the fellowship hall, had summer gatherings on the deck, and enjoyed the benefits of our new motorized window shades in the sanctuary with more projects on the way.

While working on these projects over the course of the last year, we also had congregational conversations in the fall of 2022 and winter of 2023 about life together as an inclusive church. Through respectful dialogue and deep listening, we made a commitment to inclusiveness in all aspects of the life of the Church.

In addition to these front facing congregationally led projects, our staff has also been working diligently on administrative updates to ensure we are ready to welcome people into our church community and facility.

We have redesigned and relaunched our website, with expanded capabilities and additional staff support. We have a new church management software system, which will enhance our communications tools, volunteer support, and workflow needs. Our tech team has partnered diligently with staff to update our tech needs as a church, investing time in infrastructure projects like networking upgrades, that will be of great benefit.

This summer we have also had dozens of volunteers diligently working on renovating our classrooms and updating our inventory to prepare rooms for expanded use. (Check out the article showing some fun renovation work later in the newsletter!) In addition, teams like the "Custodial Taskforce" and "Kitchen Management Team" continue to work behind the scenes to reorganize our operations management for anticipated greater capacity.

All these things have required earnest effort and engagement. I am grateful for the generosity of time, talents, and effort required to make these things possible. We have made monumental strides on revisioning how our facility and community life is structured to become a church "So All Are Welcome." Thank you for making miracles happen!

Now this fall, on behalf of the board, I would like to invite you to the next series of congregational conversations about welcoming others titled, "So All Are Welcome in Our Facility." There is more information about the congregational meetings included in the next article for your review. My hope is that our shared time together will give The Spirit a chance to speak even more deeply about our shared life, shared space, and shared community as we continue to open our doors to new neighbors and friends.

It is truly an energizing time to be a part of the Cross Winds community. I am honored to be in ministry and serve as one of your pastors.



So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God's glory Romans 15:7

Fall Congregational Forums: So All Are Welcome In Our Facility

As renovations are nearing completion, we are committed to anchoring Cross Winds in the vision we have for our church and how we hope to steward the space for our flourishing community. With the help of Flourish Placemaking Collective as our consultants, this fall we are engaging in a series of intentional discernment conversations among elected leadership, staff, and the congregation to articulate our mission, vision, and values with respect to facility usage and future community partnerships.

We are grateful for our stakeholders team who will help lead these discussions: Becky Real (board chair), Karmyn Nelson (board), Brianna Bruers (board), Craig Machacek (board), Jeanine Ronning (board), John Mbali (board), Pam Wrolstad (board secretary and SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) rep), Stina Koppes (pastor), Michelle Schober (Director of Administration, staff), Paul Crosland (trustees chair), Bill Lewis (Maple Grove community liaison) and Joyce Sluss (Minister of Community Engagement)

We invite all Cross Winds friends and members to two fall congregational forums which will provide mutual space for storytelling, dreaming, forming, and defining our vision for facility use in the years to come.

Please save the dates for these congregational forums:

- Sunday, September 24th (11:15am-12:30pm) a time of dreaming and storytelling
- Sunday, October 29th (11:15am-12:30pm) a time of forming and defining the vision

For more information, please contact Pastor Stina or Becky Real (Board Chair).





So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God's glory Romans 15:7

Kitchen Update - August Thank You

We are grateful for the ongoing work of our hospitality and kitchen management teams as we settle into the new kitchen. A big round of applause especially goes to our hospitality team for hosting the August "Breakfast with the Board" Event.

Thank you: Jeanine Ronning, Maureen Wiethorn, Kris Kosloski, Renee McWilliams, Sue Bosworth, Kathy Wagoner, Karen Oakland, and Julia Beyer.







KITCHEN BLESSING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15



We will welcome Bishop Lanette Plambeck as our guest preacher as we consecrate our new kitchen!

Kitchen Blessing with Bishop Lanette Sunday, October 15

Join us for a special worship and luncheon as we welcome Bishop Lanette Plambeck to Cross Winds UMC. Bishop Lanette will be our guest preacher as we consecrate our new kitchen and enjoy a home cooked meal afterwards hosted by the hospitality team!



Facility Updates - THANK YOU!

This summer, volunteers have been busy getting our facility ready for a fun year of programming. In addition to the main floor renovations, many hands have been working on renovating our downstairs classrooms, caring for our inventory, and ensuring that we have what we need for ministry. It is awesome to see the generosity of this congregation. Thank you!

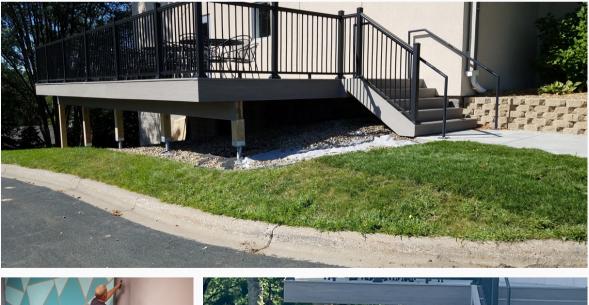
Thanks to those who helped finish the edging and landscaping around our new deck – Mike Ronning, Scott Nagel, Craig Machacek, Dale Bossen, Kevin Dickey, Dick Post.

Thank you to Dale and Carolyn Bossen who have been helping to update our custodial closets and assist with inventory reorganization of tables, chairs, and other items.

A big thank you to our conference room renovation team: Cheryl and Danica Purkat, Lisa, Evelyn, and Sierra Midgarden, Shanyn and Brayden Pautzke, Jude and Lily Lahtinen, and the Senior Facilities Team

We also want to thank our weekly Wednesday Senior Facilities Team. Week in and week out these generous guys get stuff done! Whether changing lightbulbs, caring for flowers, painting rooms, assembling carts, or solving world peace, this faithful bunch is a blessing.

Senior Facilities Team Includes: Roger Roth (Coordinator), Dick Post, Marlan Tevis, Bill Bryant, David Arthur, Roy Testerman, Pete Eckenberg, Scott McHenry, David Arthur, Darrel Ibeling, Jim Morris, David Oakland, and Ron Dumdei.



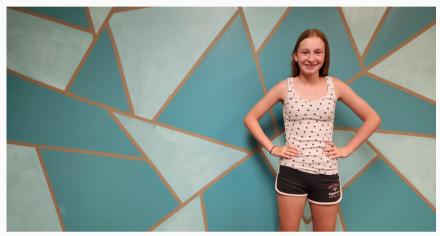










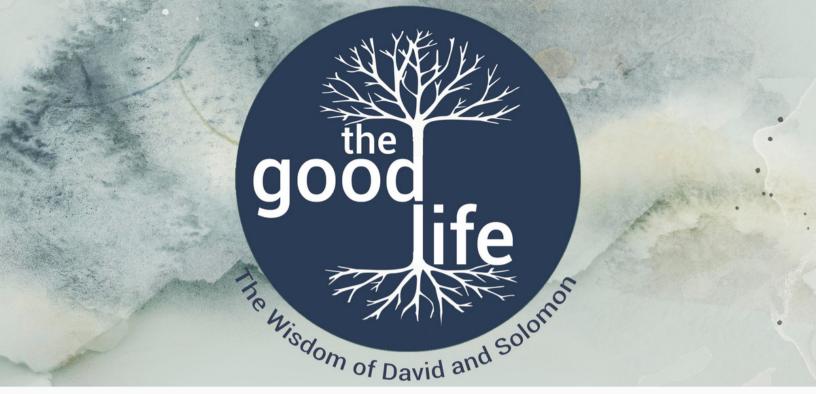












David and Solomon are two of the most famous kings in the Old Testament, with kingships that marked the golden age of Israel. Throughout their reigns, David and Solomon had their triumphs and tribulations as they wrestled with the meaning of life, the pursuit of justice, and what it meant to live honorably. In addition to the historical books of the Bible, both kings have several wisdom books attributed to them, such as Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and many of the Psalms. Join us this fall as we dive into the lives of David and Solomon, reading not only their historical accounts, but also searching the books of wisdom that search to find the meaning of a good life.



September 3 -The Beginning and The End Revelation 21:1-6a

The Bible begins and ends with images of trees and rivers. These flowing rivers not only quench our thirst but provide life to all of creation, blessing us with abundance. Today we explore how the last book of the Bible, Revelation, speaks about quenching thirst with a river of life and restoration of the world into something beautiful that brings joy.

September 17 - Nothing to Worry About

1 Samuel 17:4-11

When David was a shepherd boy, he faced the mighty Goliath with a few simple stones and a sling. What does it take to face adversity with courage, skill, and determination? Join us as we meet David through the eyes of his friends in this week's dramatic presentation of a great adventure.

September 10 (Rally Day) - Seeing the Heart 1 Samuel 16:1-13

David was one the most famous kings in the Old Testament, with a kingship that ushered in a golden age for Israel. Throughout his reigns, David had his triumphs and tribulations as he wrestled with the meaning of life, the pursuit of justice, and what it meant to live honorably. Join us this fall as we dive into the lives of David and and his son Solomon, reading not only their historical accounts, but also searching the books of wisdom that search to find the meaning of a good life.

September 24 - Pobody's Nerfect!

2 Samuel 7:1-17 - Rev. Paul Baker

Did I write that? Oh well. King David was lifted up by God to be king. He brought the country to its ultimate glory in the name of Yahweh. Everything is going right for him. He has been chosen by God, he was victorious over Goliath, and he is loved by the people. Now he wants to do something for God. Yet, even this king among kings wasn't able to understand what God wanted of him. Not only that, but his pastor, Nathan, didn't understand God's will right away either. Join us as we learn that even when it comes to God's Will, timing is everything! Adult Ministries and Small Groups

Find a way to connect with others at Cross Winds!



Grateful for new spaces to gather and grow in faith. Photo taken from August Wednesday Gatherings.





Game Group

Thursday, September 21, 1:30 pm

Do you like to play board games or enjoy fellowship with church friends? You are invited to bring your favorite board game to Fellowship Hall for fun and fellowship. Please bring your own beverage of choice. No need to sign up. Just show up! Contact Marlan Tevis for more information or for questions.

Stitches of Love Fall Kick-off

Thursday, October 5, 1:00 pm

Stitches of Love sews mission projects - quilts and school bags for UMCOR and feminine hygiene kits for Days for Girls. All levels of sewers welcome! This group meets every other month on the first Thursday of the month. Contact JoAn Baker or Jane Ducklow for questions.





Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, September 25, 1:30pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, September 25 at 1:30 pm. Bring your own beverage and project that you are working on. New members welcome.

Senior Facilities Team

Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 am

Gather for fellowship and service with other men on Wednesday mornings. This group meets weekly downstairs for coffee and connection. Then the group works away at various indoor and outdoor projects. Men are welcome to attend as their schedule permits.



Adult Ministries and Small Groups



David's Dysfunctional Relationships

Sunday Morning Adult Education Class

6 Week Series Begins September 17th (9am)

Rev. Lori Walber

Adult Sundays 9:00 am - September 17-October 22

Fall Adult Sunday School Class

David's Dysfunctional Relationships

Join Rev. Lori Walber on Sunday mornings at 9am (September 17 through October 22) for the fall adult education Sunday School class. This fall, we will look at King David's relationships with Saul, Michal, Bathsheba, Nathan and Absalom.

Wednesday Evening Adult Education Mountaintop Moments

Wednesdays 6:30 pm September 27-November 1

Join the journey through the mountains in scripture. From Mount Sinai, where Moses received the Ten Commandments, to Mount Tabor, the place of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, and four other mountains along the way. This small group will use a video series narrated by author Ed Robb. We'll discuss six major biblical events that happened on or from a mountain. Special guests in the videos share their personal "mountaintop moments." During our fellowship and learning, we'll listen for God's invitation to our own mountaintop moments.





Grief Share - Fall Class Starting September 11

Mondays 6:30-8:00pm

Grief Share will be held on Mondays beginning September 11 in the adult education room of Cross Winds UMC. <u>Register online</u> - or contact Pastor Stina for more information. Suggested donation of \$20. You will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling.

Adult Ministries and Small Groups





Wednesday Night Parenting Conversations

Wednesdays 6:30 pm September 27-November 1

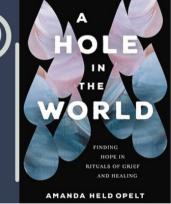
Being the best parent you can be has its ups and downs for children of any age. This will be informal conversations about selected topics or those that are most important to you. The group will determine the topics and direction of these conversations. Come to hear from others, express your concerns OR talk about what has worked for you. Please come. You will make the group a successful resource for all parents.

Wednesday Afternoon Book Study A Hole in the World

Wednesdays 1:00 pm October 4-November 8

In a raw and inspiring reflection on grief-selected by Publishers Weekly as one of the best books of the year--a mourning sister processes her personal story of loss by exploring the history of bereavement customs. Wednesdays at 1pm Fall Book Study 6 sessions Begins october 4TH

LED BY PASTOR SHIRLEY



When Amanda Held Opelt suffered a season of loss -- including three miscarriages and the unexpected death of her sister, New York Times bestselling writer Rachel Held Evans--she was confronted with sorrow she didn't know to how face. Her search for answers led her to discover that generations past embraced rituals that served as vessels for pain and aided in the process of grieving and healing. Today, many of these traditions have been lost as religious practice declines, cultures amalgamate, death is sanitized, and pain is averted. Opelt explores the history of human grief practices and how previous generations have journeyed through periods of suffering. The class meets in the Adult Education Room on the lower level of the church and will be led by Pastor Shirley. Books will be available at church and cost \$15.





Summer is ending and fall is near; We'll see you at Cross Winds for all are welcome here! Studies and scripture, music and more; How will you be involved? There's so much to explore!





Nursery Help Needed

Our nursery is hiring additional staff for the upcoming school year! Be a blessing to our littlest friends all while being blessed by them in return! For more information, contact Amber Lahtinen at amber@crosswindsumc.org

Feeling called to serve?

Are you feeling called to serve in Children's Ministry? We are looking to add to our team for the 2023-2024 school year! Come and be a blessing all while being blessed in the Kid Min program!





Acolyte Training

Mr Tom will be training a new class of acolytes for this year on October 1 at 9am! If you are in 3rd, 4th or 5th grade please plan to join him for a lesson! Acolytes are an important part of ministry and we are thankful for their service!





Sunday & Wednesday programs!



Registration is Now Open





Education, worship & fellowship!

Important Dates:

Sept 10: Sunday School Open House 9am Sept 17: First day of Sunday School Sept 20: Back z School Night- dinner & open house Oct 1: Acolyte lesson with Mr Tom 9am Oct 8: Student blessing - Bibles, acolytes and more

Wednesday Evening Programming

Exciting news!! Children's Ministry is expanding into Wednesday evenings! What an exciting way to grow in our relationship with God and with each other. Family dinner will be from 5:30-6:30 and programming for ages from 6:30-7:30! Children's all programming will be the same lesson as taught the previous Sunday but with different activities to allow for deeper learning and more fun! ALL children (birth through 12th grade) must be registered-Click to Register for Child and Youth Programs Or scan the QR code!





Youth Ministry Updates

"Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature." ~ Romans 12:2

A church family at its best is one that helps us become who we were fully created to be. It's a process of transformation, renewal, and maturation. It takes friends and mentors and a lot of time spent together. This year, I am proud to share with all of you that we have a wonderful year of programming lined up for students to grow in their faith, do all the good they can, and make new friends. Our Wednesday and Sunday programs have been strategically updated and realigned to welcome friends, adjust to modern schedules, and deepen faith. This year I am excited to be the lead teacher for our Wednesday Middle School program and eager to announce my small group leader team soon. I am also honored to welcome JoAn Baker as our new Wednesday Nigh Senior High Program Leader. In addition, we have the privilege of welcoming a great music and arts team – Ali Lundin, Cindy Bailey, and Chuck Mann to our Sunday morning worship arts program for youth. Plus, we have three parents ready to lead a 2024 Senior High Mission Trip – Karmyn Nelson, Alyssa Honmyhr, and Cindy Bailey. Your leadership, commitment, and generosity are amazing. I know it is going to bless our students and will be a blessing to our leaders. So, for all those parents out there, be sure to let folks know that we have a strong community of amazing adults ready to welcome them into ministry!

Second Harvest Trip Highlights

Our students worked hard and showed us what it means to do all the good you can when we went to Second Harvest Heartland in Brooklyn Park last month. Together, with students from White Bear Lake UMC, they packed about 6 tons of potatoes, which is equivalent to packing almost 10,000 meals for Minnesota food shelves. Thank you students!











Fall Programming Preview and Registration

The new information about fall youth programming (grades 6-12) is ready! This year, we are expanding Wednesday evening programing to include weekly meals and group opportunities for all ages starting September 20th. We also are offering a Sunday morning music program at the 9am hour beginning in September. Information & registration about fall programming is available online - <u>https://crosswindslife.org/engage/youth/</u>

Three Ways to Learn About Fall Youth Programming

- Sept 10th (11am) Parent meeting (social time and check in with Pastor after worship)
- Sept 20th (5:30pm dinner, 6:30pm program) Wednesday Evening Fall Kick Off
- Contact Pastor Stina (<u>stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org</u>)



2024 Senior High Mission Trip (Benton Harbor, MI) July 6-13, 2024

Students in grades 8-12 (during the 2023-2024 school year)

Plans are underway for a 2024 Senior High Mission Trip through Youth Works. We have three parent chaperones ready to lead the trip and a core group of students interested in participating. Adult chaperones include Alyssa Honmyhr, Cindy Bailey, and Karmyn Nelson. Contact Pastor Stina for more information or attend the Sunday, Sept 10th or Wednesday, Sept 20th parent information sessions about youth programming to learn more.

Cost – approximately \$600 (includes travel, food, lodging, and activities. We're still working on final plans)

Destination – Benton Harbor, MI

Service Projects - Partner with local organizations to meet ongoing needs in the community. Students may serve all or part of the week at a food shelf, clothing distribution center, or by assisting with painting, cleaning or simple repair projects.

During a week in Benton Harbor, our group will partner with local organizations to serve the city across age and racial divides. In the evenings, we will tour the community and learn about the fine arts revitalization in Benton Harbor from a community friend. We'll also have the opportunity to experience local BBQ, visit a Lake Michigan beach, and explore Benton Harbor's sister city, St. Joseph. YouthWorks has partnered with this community since 2000.

RSVP – Contact Pastor Stina to reserve a spot, learn more, and stay in the loop about the trip. (Stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org)

THE COMPASS



UMCOR Sager Brown Team Resumes after a Pandemic Pause

The next trip to Baldwin, Louisiana will take place January 7 – 19, 2024, continuing over 30 years of service with the Distribution Center and the Baldwin community. Many of those years were coordinated by the efforts of Harold and Karen Biederman who, when asked, will share their stories of how this ministry provides blessings for participants and the served community.

While UMCOR's international strategies have shifted from material to financial support for disaster relief, the domestic requests for menstrual hygiene kits, hygiene kits and cleaning kits for those who have experienced the devastation of fire, flood, wind, and earthquake remain high. The primary work of the team is to prepare and verify that those kits meet the requirements developed by years of research and adaptation.

Team members are also offered missional opportunities to serve the community through food distribution, residential housing improvements, and other outreach efforts. Our chosen dates allow us to celebrate the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King holiday on January 15th with the Baldwin community. Many have found it to be a culturally rich experience.

Participants live, dormitory style, in the historic Sager Brown campus, located on the even more historic Bayou Teche that still supports barge traffic. Apartments and camper hook-ups are also available. The food service will tempt the strictest of dieters with Southern cuisine and hospitality.

If you would like to experience something beyond snow in January, we encourage you to explore <u>https://umcmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/UMCOR-Sager-Brown-Know-Before-You-Go_2023v1.pdf</u> Contact Bill Dow, 608-547-4320, <u>pbdow@yahoo.com</u> or Ruby Dow, 608-963-2954, <u>remdow@ymail.com</u> if you feel the Spirit giving you a nudge.

UMCOR Disaster Response - Hawaii Wildfires

You have probably heard about the terrible wildfire destruction currently happening on Maui in Hawaii. We can help! Donations can be made to UMCOR through Cross Winds. Overhead costs are already covered so 100% of your donation will go to that specific project. We already know that the oldest United Methodist church in Hawaii and its parsonage have been burned to the ground. UMCOR is already there and we can help them do more. Donations may be made directly to UMCOR Online - https://umcmission.org/umcor-us-latest-<u>responses/</u> or you can give through your Cross Winds online giving account (select UMCOR Special Giving to designate towards the Wildfires). If donating by check, please make payable to "Cross Winds UMC" and write "UMCOR-Hawaii" in the check's memo. Thanks.



ENLIGHTEN NIMBA Gipo Vocational Technical Institute

Informational Meeting September 17, 11:15 am

Special Offering to be taken Sunday, October 1



Enlighten Nimba

by Richard Post

The Gipo Vocational Technical Institute, established in 2016, is located in Nimba County, Liberia West Africa. GVTI's mission is to teach young Liberians employable skills and offer community outreach to the people in Nimba County. Funding to build this school has been supported by several groups, one created by members of Brooklyn United Methodist Church in Brooklyn Center. Next March, I will be joining the third Brooklyn UMC mission trip (my second), to assist in completing the student dormitory, eliminating the hardship students must suffer just getting to school. Much has been erected since I left, yet more still needs to be done. In 2019, I visited a beautiful country full of extraordinary people, people who were struggling to find employment and a better life. I left Liberia disappointed that I unable to do more to build this institute. I left a school which teaches students to become electricians and an area full of sunlight which could have access to solar power. My greatest role now is to raise the money needed to complete the building and make GTVI fully operational.

Electrifying this part of Liberia will eventually come, even paved roads, yet neither appear to be happening soon. Solar power is being installed in many parts of Liberia. Once installed in GVTI, it would cost little to run. I want to speed that process up so the institute would be properly equipped to house and teach its students while becoming a valuable asset for the surrounding community.

My priority now is to raise money that would complete putting a roof on the dormitory and energize the school. On September 17th, you are invited to attend an informational meeting, after service, at Cross Winds, explaining what Enlighten Nimba offers the Gipo Vocational Technical Institute and learn how you can help. My goal is to raise \$25,000 to bring to Liberia, in March, to complete building the dormitory and add a solar energy center. More money still will be needed to create a You Richard Post, at 612-669-2679 solar farm. can message me, or email rpost.enlightennimba@gmail.com.

Cross Winds Church Directory Paper Directories

If you haven't yet updated your information, please fill out the online form or contact the office.

available October 1

Cross Winds Directory Updates

We have been working hard on updating our church database and directory. A big thank you to everyone who has filled out their directory update forms. If you have not filled out a form yet, copies are available at church or online at: <u>Directory Update Form</u>.

Beginning Sunday, October 1 Michelle Schober, Director of Administration, will be available on Sunday mornings to distribute copies of our paper directories. Paper copies only include information that we have been given permission to publish. So, if you would like to be in the directory or know of someone who should be included, please reach out to Michelle (on Sunday mornings or during office hours) to fill out the form for future publications.

As we continue to work with our new church management software, we hope to offer online limited church account access, regulated by our staff to ensure confidentiality and proper use of information, by the end of the year.

Music Notes

Cross Winds Choir Kick-off

Wednesday, August 30, 6:30-8:00 pm

Cross Winds Choir is open to all singers from 9th grade-adult. It is not only a group that produces beautiful worship music, but also provides fellowship, friendship, spiritual growth, and care for its members. Rehearsals will continue Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm from September-May.





Music Instrumentalist Needed

We incorporate instruments of all kinds including strings, brass and woodwinds, and keyboards in much of our worship music; please let me know if you play an instrument, and would like to play in worship. You can contact me for opportunities throughout the year to share your musical gifts and talents in worship.

For more information contact Lori Lahtinen, Director of Worship and Music Ministries at lorilahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Higher Ground Youth Choir

The youth choir meets on Sunday morning at 9am twice per month. They will sing for worship each month. Grades 6-12 are invited to join us. Watch for details coming in September. Go to the <u>Children/Youth registration form</u> to sign up





Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

15051 Weaver Lake Rd Maple Grove, MN 55311

Return Service Requested

The Compass

is the monthly newsletter of Cross Winds United Methodist Church

www.crosswindslife.org

Phone: 763-494-4963

