Haiti Remembered. Haiti Re-Imagined.

I came across an online video recently that captured life in Haiti before the earthquake hit. It showed a group of young girls on their way to school. They were smiling and laughing, and twirling their umbrellas back and forth to keep the heat out.

What I really enjoyed about the video was that it didn’t try to tell the story of Haiti’s poverty. It simply told the story of Haiti’s people. Yes, poverty is a part of that story. But it’s not their entire story.

But today I fear that it will be some time before Haiti’s story can be told without first telling the story of an earthquake of historical proportions that hit at the center of Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince, at 5 pm on Tuesday, January 12, 2010. Having traveled to Haiti in previous years, I could hardly watch what was unfolding before my eyes. As pictures and stories rolled in, it was as if this were a nightmare that we’d all wake up from very soon.

But this was real. A nightmarish reality to be exact.

I felt a twist of my soul when I saw a reporter standing in front of the Caribbean Supermarket just five minutes from St. Joseph’s in Port-au-Prince. I thought back to Oct. 2008, and the fact that I stood in line at that market to buy a pepsi and a bag of doritos.

What if...

As St. Joseph’s came tumbling down on Tuesday, January 12, most of the boys and guests were able to get out unscathed, but one guest did not. Staying at St. Joe’s, in the guest quarters, were three Wartburg Seminary students who were in Haiti as part of a January independent study term. Two of the students made it out. One did not. Wartburg Seminary is devastated.

This is one story I can tell, but what of the countless stories that may never be told. The mass graves of people with names reduced to bodies; no longer persons. How will their loved ones ever know if they made it out? Will the assumption of death be enough to go on for the rest of their life? Maybe they’re still out there somewhere.

The heartache...

But...

...there is hope.

Wings of Hope in Fermathe did not come tumbling down. Why? Because the Haitian Timoun Foundation and Hearts with Haiti just finished an $80,000 renovation project there to shore up the foundation. One can only imagine what might have happened had we not completed this project last year.

The School at Trinity House (Lekol sen Trinite) that Holy Cross helped build, did not come tumbling down. Why? Because we used reinforced steel and concrete to build it.

The Tetkole Emergency Night Shelter that Holy Cross helped build, did not come tumbling down. Why? Because we used reinforced steel and concrete to build it.

Continued on next page
Continued from front page

Now, the Haitian Timoun Foundation is one of the first organizations on the scene in Jacmel, Haiti to deliver food, medicine, water, tents, clothing, and blankets to the devastated citizens there.

I don’t know about you, but I’m ready to see pictures of the indomitable spirit of the Haitian people at work. None have been more tested than they have over the years. They are the most resilient and determined people I have ever known.

CNN and other networks will continue to run video, pictures, and stories of people suffering in Haiti. But in my mind I will prefer to imagine the stories of a people who did not wait on outside aid before they began helping one another. This is what Haitians do.

In the months and years to come, the level of expectation will be higher for Holy Cross, because the stakes are higher. When others begin leaving Haiti, we will still be there.

Why? Because we were there before. Holy Cross through HTF is at its best in the mid and long term where the only currency exchanged is that of deep and long-standing relationships and partnerships.

In the future people will still go to Haiti to see people who are suffering. But we will go to see people who are thriving.

We will go because we believed in their capacity for greatness before the earthquake.

We will go because we helped resource their hopes and dreams for their country.

We will go, and lives will be changed.

Theirs.

And ours.

We will go, not because of the earthquake. We will go because we went before. The only thing that has changed is that our focus is all the more clearer now.

We cannot afford to fail the people of Haiti. We won’t!

Thank you Holy Cross for having the guts and courage to not blink in the face of such pain and struggle and adversity.

Thank you for having the vision to believe that a single grassroots organization can change the world.

Thank you for not being afraid to say we are God’s hands and feet in the world, and we have thrown our lot in with the people of Haiti, the children to be specific.

Lord God, you could have called us to anywhere in the world, but you didn’t call us to anywhere. You called us to Haiti.

Here we are, Lord. Send us!

God loves you and I do too!

John Bost, Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church
HTF Chairman of the Board and Director of Communications

For latest updates visit: www.htflive.org

SECOND ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING date is set for February 7. Four members of the congregation will be elected to a nominating committee to work with two outgoing members of council to select a slate of council members for next year. Election of council members will be held in April.

We will also need to select representatives to the Synod Assembly in May.
HCLC presents

S.A.M.E.

Second Annual Meeting Extravaganza

Sunday, February 7, 2010
11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Black tie affair | Childcare available
An H.C. Annual Meeting celebration you won't want to miss!

Celebrate!
WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES DURING LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, February 17, 2010
6:30 PM – Worship with Imposition of Ashes

MID-WEEK SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP
Wednesdays, February 24 – March 24
6 PM – Soup Supper in Parish Hall
6:30 PM – Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary

SUNDAYS
Worship at 9:30 AM
Education Hour for all ages at 10:45 AM
Holy Cross has a long history of sharing with people in need. This year, we will give our Lenten offering to the Tri-Valley Haven. “The Haven” operates three very important programs in the Tri-Valley, a battered women’s shelter, a homeless shelter (the only shelter in the area that accepts males over the age of 11), and a food pantry. Our congregation regularly supports the Haven by filling a food barrel with food staples, paper products, and personal items for the Pantry. The generous Lenten offering from Holy Cross will help the Haven fulfill its mission in the Tri-Valley—caring for battered women, the homeless, and all the less fortunate who need the food pantry.

Open Heart Kitchen Returns to Holy Cross
In 1995, the Tri-Valley Interfaith Ministers’ Association determined that the Tri-Valley needed a soup kitchen with the mission of feeding the hungry of the Tri-Valley. They established Open Heart Kitchen at Holy Cross in October, 1995. At that time, there was no convenient bus service to Mocho Street. For that reason, in the spring of 1996, Open Heart moved to Asbury United Methodist on East Avenue where it has remained ever since. Because the facilities at Asbury will be undergoing major renovation, Open Heart needs a temporary home. In view of this need, Holy Cross has again opened its doors to the hungry of the Tri-Valley.

Starting on February 23, Open Heart Kitchen will be serving from 12:00 to 6:00 pm every Tuesday and Wednesday in the Holy Cross Parish Hall. The construction work at Asbury is expected to require 8 or 10 months. During that time, we will be welcoming Open Heart Kitchen and its guests into our parish hall. Dee Olness is the Holy Cross OHK Coordinator. If you would like to volunteer with Open Heart Kitchen, call the Open Heart Kitchen Volunteer Coordinator at 580-1619 or log onto the Open Heart website at openheartkitchen.org.

Dear Family and Friends of Holy Cross,
My family and I are once again humbled by your generosity. Your gift around Christmas-time is never expected, but always appreciated. I think the gift this year is all the more special knowing the shape of the economy. It is a testament to the type of people you are.

Thank you for all of the cards. We have really enjoyed reading your thoughtful words of encouragement. Additionally, thanks to all who have kept us fed over the past month. Zoey asked if people could just keep bringing meals throughout the year. I told her I would try to get it in the budget.

Once again, thank you for this gift and all that you have given to us throughout the year. We feel truly blessed to a part of the Holy Cross family.

With love,
Pastor John, Shawnda, Zoey, Journey, and Sam
Holy Cross Book Club will be discussing the following book at its February meeting, 10:30 am in the Music Room on Tuesday, February 9.

*Stones Into Schools* by Greg Mortenson

Many of you have read *Three Cups of Tea* by Mortenson. He is doing truly wonderful work building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. We welcome you to come learn more about the man and his work.

## Morning Bible Study

**IN FEBRUARY** we will begin a new series on the study of Paul. This will include videos, reading material and discussion. Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan, both members of the Jesus Seminar, are the presenters in the videos. They are sure to give us new insights into the work of this early Christian leader. Please join us Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Music Room.

## Library News

A while ago my Grandson, Timothy, was helping me put the library books in order according to the call numbers. He asked why there were so many 200s. I explained that 200 was all about religion. He asked if there were THAT many different religions. There are many different religions, but the 200s encompass everything ABOUT religion. For example, anything from 220 to 229.99 has to do with the Bible. The 270s are all about Christian church history. Each month I will put a selection of themed books out for you to borrow. Of course, you are free to choose any of the materials in the entire library. This month the theme is Love and Marriage. We no longer are using check-out cards, so just take a book and go.

Happy reading! Kathy Jones

## Holy Cross Garden

Imagine produce direct from your garden to your kitchen table. It doesn’t get better than that – better tasting and better for you. Holy Cross garden has plots available beginning March 1. For just $30/yr for a 10’ x 20” plot or $20/yr for a 10’ x 10’ plot, you can grow your own pesticide free produce all year long. You must simply agree to not using any pesticides or herbicides. You will need to maintain your own plot and occasionally contribute to general maintenance. To rent a plot call Bob Kehl at 443-5632 or the church office at 447-8840. Those of you who have plots and plan to keep them, your rent is due March 1. Make your check payable to Holy Cross, indicate that it is for the garden, and let Bob Kehl know that you have paid.
Sponsored by:
The Haitian Timoun Foundation
This non-profit organization is focused on improving life for Haitian children ["timoun" is Creole for “little child”].

MARCH 13th Saturday at 6:00pm
AN EVENING PERFORMANCE

MARCH 14th Sunday at 9:30am
SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION
at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore

Ten young men - orphans and former street children now hailed as artistic ambassadors for their country and culture. Celebrated for their percussion, dance and story telling, they have toured the U.S. and Canada.

Free events - DONATIONS GO TO THE HAITIAN TIMOUN FOUNDATION WHERE 100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO HAITI.

WWW.htflive.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry Spending Plan Category</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenses/Outgo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Operating</strong></td>
<td>$31,624</td>
<td>$22,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(salaries, facilities, debt reduction)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mission Support</strong></td>
<td>$1238</td>
<td>$1238</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Synod and ELCA Church wide Ministries)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Designated Benevolence</strong></td>
<td>$576</td>
<td>$1831</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Disaster Relief, World Hunger, Community Care)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Haitian Timoun Foundation</strong></td>
<td>$1943</td>
<td>$8500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Balance of $0) (Outgo YTD = $8,500)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Heart Kitchen</strong></td>
<td>$347</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Outgo YTD = $3,592) (needed per month = 250)</td>
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</tbody>
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We have a **negative balance of $13,782** in our combined Current Operating and Debt Reduction account.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Please indicate on your offering envelope as to how you would like your contribution to be divided among the different funds. (Current Operating, Mission Support, Debt Reduction, World Hunger, Haitian Timoun Foundation, etc.) If no fund is designated the whole amount will go to Current Operating.

BUNDLES OF JOY

Thank you, members of Holy Cross, for your generous Christmas donations to this program. Because babies come into this world all year long, we are going to continue the program throughout the year. You will find a basket in the narthex where you can place your items. Below is a reminder of the items that are being requested.

- Baby bottles (3 pack)
- Baby booties/socks
- Blankets
- Cloth toy/stuffed animal
- Baby Wash
- Newborn diapers
- Newborn clothes
- Bibs
- Pacifiers
- Hats
- Baby Lotion
- Rattles
- Wipes
- Cash or Gift Cards (Target, Babies R Us, etc…)

Financial gifts are also appreciated. Indicate on your check or envelope that your donation is for “Bundles of Joy.”

High School Group

On Friday, January 22 the students went to a Warriors game courtesy of Bryan Hahn and a friend who was able to get free tickets for the group.

The High School students have been at work during the month of January preparing for the Second Annual Meeting Extravaganza (SAME), February 7.

Upcoming Events:

- February 7: 10:45-12:45 | SAME
- February 14: 10:45-11:45 | Sunday School
- February 21: 6:00-8:00 | Home Huddle @ the Cheneys
- February 28: 10:45-11:45 | Sunday School

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Memory Book

We need YOUR help! If you have any pictures, slides, videos, interesting stories, etc. for this Memory Book we would appreciate your sharing of them.

A little later we hope to establish a bulletin board to display some of these items.

Please contact Marilyn Schell, designated Memory Book collector, at (925) 447-5128 or by e-mail at livgmaof3@comcast.net.

Please include your name so that we can be sure to return the item to you. We promise to take good care of them.

Also, please list any names of people in pictures and any information you have about the subject.

LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

January flew by and here we are in February. It will be a busy month at school for the teachers and the children. A local dentist will be visiting all the classrooms to talk to the children about keeping our teeth healthy. In the classroom, we will also be learning about nutrition and healthy habits. Valentine’s Day is fast approaching and HCLS students will be singing at Rosewood Gardens. We are pleased to introduce the preschool children to community service at an early age; hopefully, we will begin a life long habit of ministry to others.

We have added a second three year class on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and have space to add children. If you know of anyone looking for a three year old program please let them know. If a family enrolls now, they will have priority registration for our fall programs. Registration for Holy Cross School begins February 22nd & 23th for currently enrolled families. Alumni and church member registration takes place March 1st & 2nd. The lottery for open registration is March 4th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On Sunday, March 21st - Holy Cross Lutheran School will host the annual Ice Cream Social and Open House, complete with a silent auction and raffle.

We hope you will join us for this annual fun event.

Additionally, if you have an item you would like to donate to the Ice Cream Social, as an auction or raffle item, please contact Jennifer Montgomery (925) 447-1864. Possible donations include a weekend cabin getaway, green fees towards golf, gift certificates to local restaurants, etc.

Thank you so much for all the support you provide to the school!

We wish all of you a “lovely” Valentine’s Day.

God’s Blessings,

Jennifer
AMONG family & friends

Please keep Holy Cross informed about births, deaths, weddings, graduations, hospitalizations, or a special recognition in your household by calling the church office at 447-8840.

Friends & Family in Our Prayers

The entire country of Haiti
Melinda Cronk, sister of Melony McGown
Arlene Dwyer, mother of Barbara Bell
Ellen Gully, friend of Marilyn Carstensen
Dorothy Harder, mother-in-law of Ruth Harder
San Hildi, neighbor of Jeannie & Richard McCabe
Lil Hogan, friend of Becky Gann
Susan Hulscher, friend of Cathy Houston
San Wok Kang, neighbor of Jeannie & Richard McCabe
Peter Konstan, friend of Becky Gann
Bernard & Mary Lou McBee, parents of Jan Wolery
Nila and newborn child, friend of Barbara Bell
Elliana Opsal, granddaughter of Jon & Sharon Opsal
Pam Roderer, daughter of Mary Taber
Laurie Simpkinson, daughter of Pastor Ken
Shirley Thomas, mother of Debra Rauch
Bob Thorson, brother of Becky Gann

In Memoriam

Louise Bliss, long-time member of HCLC

Military Deployment

Dylan Eickmann, USA
son of former Pastor Lori, Iraq
Joel Fadden, USMC
great nephew of Jo Johnson, Afghanistan
Clifford Johnston, USA
grandson of Minnie Johnston, Germany
Daniel Thorson
cousin of Bev Coutts, National Guard, Iraq
Shaun Tighe-Barrios, USA
friend of Marci Sizemore, Iraq
John (JT) Weiss
cousin of Sharon Lemmon, USA, Iraq

Have you ever said a prayer?
Do you have room for just one more prayer in your life?
Have you ever read an email?
Do you have room for just one more email in your life?
The Internet Prayer Chain of Holy Cross Lutheran Church is looking for a few good pray-ors. No one will call you on the telephone. Chainers receive 2-3 emails per week and are only asked to pray on it--never to pass to anyone.
If you would like to be part of the very first Internet Prayer Chain in the entire Tri-Valley area, send an email to: llhoover@sbcglobal.net (Linda Hoover) and join us!
IN celebration

FEBRUARY Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tom Schaffer</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Diana Cochran</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trump Teresa</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Karen Knowles</td>
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<td>Danielle Nguyen</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Dolores Simmermaker</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Lori Hagelston</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Patrick Cheney</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Carlton Furnberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Brooke McKinney</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Knowles</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Edna Munson</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Gloria Wallace</td>
<td>28</td>
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FEBRUARY Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jim &amp; Laurie Carlson</td>
<td>2/1/1980</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Phyllis Farrell</td>
<td>2/10/1979</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron &amp; Gloria Wallace</td>
<td>2/11/1975</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis &amp; Diana Cochran</td>
<td>2/12/1972</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn &amp; Robin Koehler</td>
<td>2/17/1979</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Many, many thanks to Holy Cross friends who were able to be part of my ordination on Jan. 16. It was so special to me that you were there, and that Seth -- who wrote one of the letters to the bishops supporting my ordination -- was one of the presenters. I am privileged to serve Christ with co-workers as gifted and dedicated as all of you. May God continue to bless you in all you do!

Peace,
Lori

HAPPY Valentine’s DAY

Love
ADDRES:

1020 Mocho Street
Livermore, CA 94550
Phone: 925.447.8840
FAX: 925.447.4937
www.holycrosslivermore.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CROSSROADS DEADLINE
for next month’s issue is
February 15, Monday.
Please email your articles to
Cheri Brewster at
brewsterdesign@sbcglobal.net
or bring to the Church office.

Remember to send your
change of address or email to
admin@holycrosslivermore.org
or call 925.447.8840

The Ministers
John Knowles
John Preston Bost
Susan Peterson

The people of Holy Cross
Senior Pastor
John Preston Bost
Director of Music
Susan Peterson

Crossroads Editors
Susan Peterson
Cheri Brewster
Megan Kunda

Organist
Susan Peterson

HLCSchool Manager
Jenifer Montgomery

Custodian
Cheri Brewster

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