



# CrossCurrents

## Pastor's Perspective

Spring is springing up all around me! And in my yard anyway, I have nothing to do with it.

Let me explain. Daffodils, crocuses, hyacinth, hummingbird mint, tulips and others (some I'm still not sure what they even are!) start showing



up in the planter areas around the edges of my lawn this time of year. The first of them have just started to push their

pretty heads above the soil as I write this – in spite of a little snow and sleet that fell a couple of days ago.

These first signs of spring are gifts left by the first owner of my home in the Fairwood area of south Renton. Neighbors tell me he was an active gardener who loved to spend time planting and piddling around outside. I'm grateful he made the investments he did with the lawn and garden areas as I continue to reap the rewards of his labor.

This is only my third Seattle-area spring. Coming from the desert Southwest, I'm used to a vastly different flora – native and sown. So each year I'm pleasantly surprised by the bulb plants, hidden all winter long, bursting forth again with new life and much welcomed color after all the gray (and this year all the white!) of winter.

Continued on Page 2

## Mid-Week Lenten Services

Wednesdays 7pm  
Soup Suppers 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

## Holy Week

Palm Sunday 9am and 11am  
Maundy Thursday 7pm  
Good Friday 7pm  
Easter Vigil 6pm-10pm  
Easter Sunday 9am and 11am



**Behold the Tree**  
A Series Of Special Services For Lent

(Continued from Page 1)



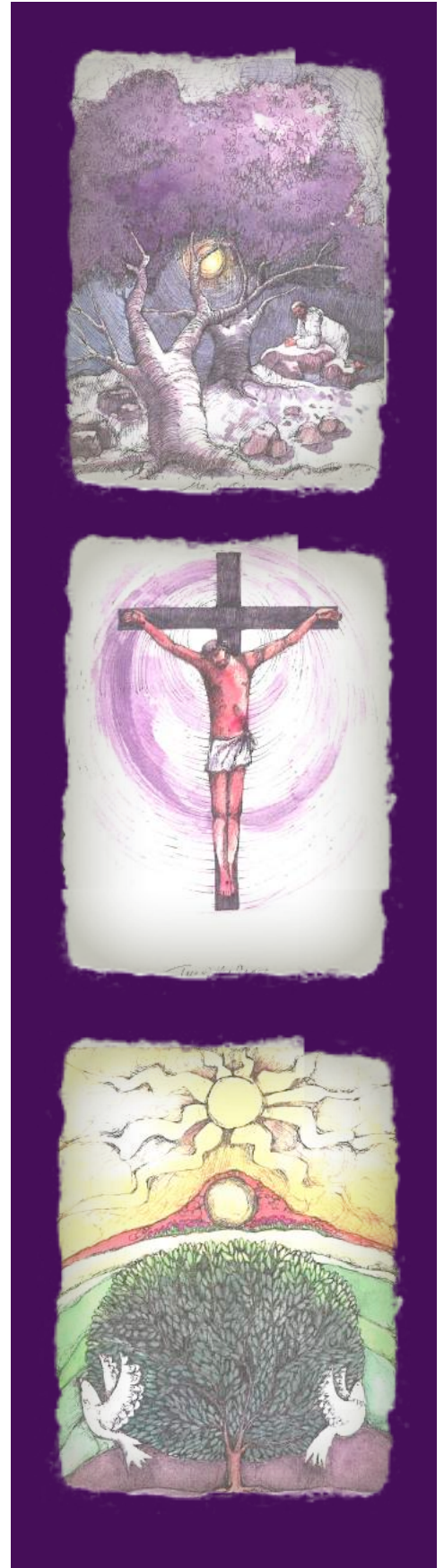
There's a saying gardeners have about perennials and bulb flowers – "First they sleep, then they creep, then they leap!" We're still in the "creeping" stage at my house, but the "leaping" is not far off. I'm looking forward to the little blasts of yellows and pinks and blues that will be in full bloom in March and April.

Spring in the church year is like this. Lent arrives as winter is still with us, with more darkness than daylight. Here in the Pacific Northwest, the weather often fits the Lenten season – somber, introspective, subdued. But as the seasons both natural and ecclesiological continue, we begin to hope again for new life and new light, awaiting with anticipation the great Pascal Celebration to come.

Even more, our faith life is sometimes like the annual spring renewal. We can be surprised by a little shoot of hope that somehow pushes its way up through a dark time we're experiencing. And we recognize this is not of our own doing. Like the flowers in my garden, planted by another, unexpected experiences of hope and light and life are signs of the Great Gardener at work beneath the surface, sometimes forgotten, often unnoticed, planting in us seeds of faith that rise up just at the right time. I hope this season will be one of great hope and beauty and life for you, and for us together. Yes, we walk Lent's somber path for a while this time of year. But the journey is worthwhile, even needed, like the fallow time of winter which makes spring's blossoms possible and even more worth celebrating when they come. May the love of God grow deep in us, and may we be signs of light and hope for one another and for our neighbors near and far.

Blessed to serve with you,

Pastor Dave





## *Behold the Tree* *Midweek Lenten* *Series*

2017

From the Tree  
of the  
Knowledge of



Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden, to the Burning Bush from which God spoke to Moses, to the Sycamore Tree Zacchaeus climbed up to get a glimpse of Jesus, the Bible is filled with the imagery of trees, bushes and plants that help to tell the story of salvation and ultimately point us to the Tree of Life, the Cross of Jesus Christ. This year's Midweek Lenten services will feature some of these trees, who will "speak" to us with wit and wisdom week by week. Join us for these services, beginning with Ash Wednesday. Regular Wednesday services begin at 7 pm and are designed to be about 45 minutes long. Soup Suppers precede the services at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

## Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday Schedule

Please plan to join us for the many meaningful services of Holy Week 2017.

The celebration of Palm Sunday with the waving of palm branches and the shouts of "Hosanna" takes place on Sunday, April 9, at both the 9 am Traditional and 11 am Casual services.

Maundy Thursday's remembrance of Christ's gathering in the Upper Room for his Last Supper with his disciples will be made all the more meaningful with the music of Cantorei, our choral choir, under the direction of our new Director of Music Ministries Ben Fowler and accompanied by organist Nick Abbott. The service will include the last altar communion of the season, and ends with the dramatic Stripping of the Altar. The service is held at 7 pm.

The power and passion of Good Friday will be evident in our Tenebrae/Seven Last Words service, highlighted by the dynamic song "The Passion Prophecy" presented by Carillon, Cross of Christ's handbell choir, directed by Colin Walker. Good Friday services is at 7 pm.

This year's approach to Easter Vigil will focus on the traditional "devotional waiting and watching" aspects of a vigil. The word "vigil" comes from the Latin word for "awake" from which we also get the English word "vigilant". On the Eve of Easter, we will be vigilant both in our pondering the meaning of the passion, death and burial of Jesus, and in our hopeful watching for the dawn of the new day to come. Stations for self-directed spiritual reflections will be intertwined with corporate prayers, liturgies, and reflections. Some activities will be outdoors, and others in the Sanctuary. The Easter Vigil will take place from 6 to 10 pm and is designed for drop-in participation for as long or as little time as you have.

Easter Sunday "Alleluias" will fill the brightly decorated and lily-filled Sanctuary at our Celebration of the Resurrection services. The Traditional Service at 9am will include Carillon and Cantorei as well as guest musicians. At 11am our Casual/Mosaic service will also feature special music and guests. The joy of the good news "Christ is Risen Indeed" will fill our services and our hearts as we rejoice and give thanks in these very special services, the highlight and conclusion of Holy Week.

It takes many volunteers to conduct all these services. Readers, Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants, Greeters, Vigil Volunteers and more are needed. Please contact Pastor Dave to see how you can be a part of this awesome week of worship – [pastordave@cofcl.net](mailto:pastordave@cofcl.net) and 425-746-7300. During office hours.

## EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers to brighten our church for Easter Sunday! If you would like to donate, pick up a dedication form in the narthex, and write checks to Cross of Christ with Easter Flowers on the memo line.



## New Altar Candles Donated to Beautify and Brighten the Sanctuary

A donor family of Cross of Christ gave a gift for the purchase of new altar candles. The hope behind the gift was not only to brighten worship services, but to bring in new beauty and meaning with the purchase of hand-blown glass candle holders in the most frequently used liturgical colors of the church year – green, white, purple and red.

Representatives of the Altar Guild with Pastor Dave had the fun task of selecting the candle holders from glassybaby, a private Seattle-based company based founded by Lee Rhodes.

In 1995, at the age of 32, Rhodes was stricken with a third round of a rare form of lung cancer. The mother of three had previously given her husband glass blowing lessons, and he created small glass cups they called "baby glasses" which she would light with tea light candles to find solace during the difficult cancer treatments.

From this beginning has grown the glassybaby enterprise, and their award-winning work has been featured on television shows and in magazines. The company expanded into Bellevue in 2009. A portion of all sales – usually 10 percent – is donated to local charities, including cancer research centers, medical centers, the Humane Society and Conservation International.

From Cross of Christ recent purchase of a dozen candle holders – three each in the four primary liturgical colors – glassybaby donated \$61.84. The new candles will make their debut in worship on Ash Wednesday. Thanks to the donor family, and thanks to the Altar Guild for guiding this process.

## Grief Group in April

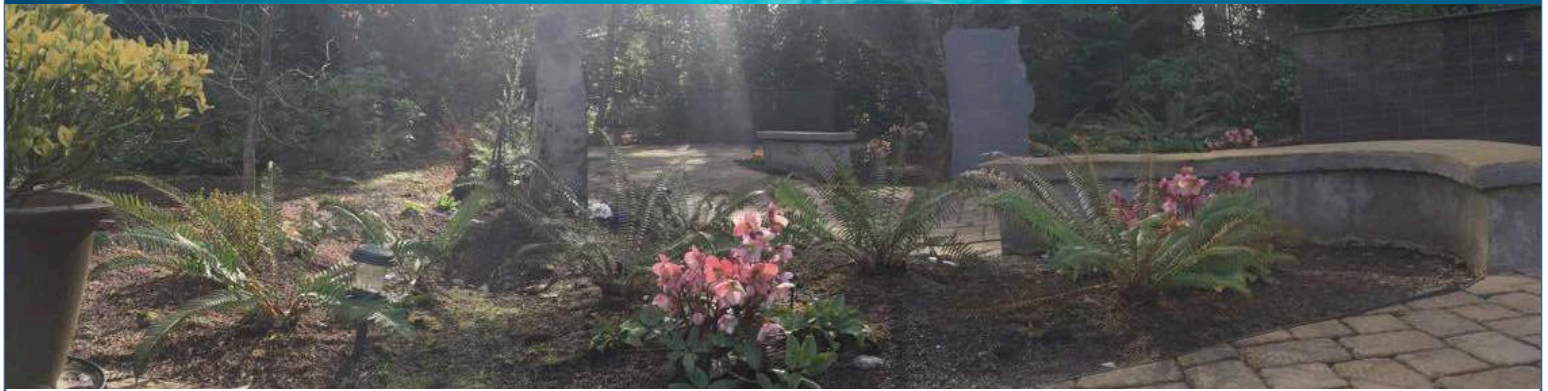
*Cross of Christ's Grief Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month, at 10 am, in the Gathering Room (Room 202). Anyone is invited to join our time of devotions, prayer, and casual directed conversations.*

*The next gathering is on April 19 when we return to our regular 10 am time.*



*Handbell players wanted! Have you ever thought about ringing a bell or two? Easter is a great time to learn--the time commitment is short and the pieces are fun! Contact Carillon director Colin Walker at [colin@colinwalker.org](mailto:colin@colinwalker.org) if you're interested.*

# CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



*The Lenten Rose (Helleborus) blooms in the Garden of Remembrance*



## Congregations for the Homeless

*Homelessness brings about relational poverty—a disconnect from society and those around you. At CFH, we strive to provide the foundation for relationship—compassion, empowerment, respect and community to the men we serve.*

*David Bowling, Executive Director  
Congregations for the Homeless*



## Hopelink Food Bank Bin

The Community Outreach Committee would like to thank you, the Congregation, for your generous support of the ongoing Hopelink Food Bank Drive. Your contributions of non-perishable food have made a difference in providing food to the Hopelink Food Bank, which is then shared with the disadvantaged in our community. For those not familiar with the Food Bank Bin, it is located on the left side as you enter the Sanctuary from the Narthex, next to the stairs to the balcony. All non-perishable food items are welcome, and the Bin is emptied and the content delivered to the Hopelink Food Bank on a regular basis. Thank you again for your support of this important mission.

## CONGREGATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS MAY 2017

Once again, Cross of Christ will be hosting Congregations for the Homeless in May. Meals are provided with help, from our Covenant Churches. Cross of Christ will be responsible for meals during the first half of the month. Our biggest need for the month is for meal providers, sandwich makers, and visitors. Look for more information in the weekly announcements.

Contact Nadine Bentsen 747-1543 or

[nadinebentsen@yahoo.com](mailto:nadinebentsen@yahoo.com) Ann Huseby 922-6319 or  
[ahuseby@comcast.net](mailto:ahuseby@comcast.net) to volunteer or with questions.



# LIVING LOCAL

Living Local comes to Cross of Christ in March!

What is Living Local? If you are like me, you might at first think that it is eating local farm produce. But, Living Local is an initiative by the Northwest Washington Synod to help congregations cultivate new relationships within their neighborhoods. It is an invitation to congregations to go on a journey to discover where and with whom God might be calling us to participate with. There are four central practices for the Living Local process:

1. Listening – What might God be saying to us?
2. Discerning – Why might God be saying this to us?
3. Experimenting – How can we learn more about where God is leading us?
4. Reflecting – What are we learning about where God is leading us?

On Saturday, February 18th, Cheryl Buettemeier, Edie Hershey, Julie Hockett and I joined four other congregations in a day long workshop to learn more about Living Local and to begin our 18-month journey together and with our congregation. We are excited to begin this journey and to share it with all of you. We were also energized as we talked with folks from other congregations. As the Cross of Christ Guiding Team, our first task is to interview 24 people from the congregation, so please say yes when one of us asks you to meet for coffee!

On March 5th, Rev. David Hahn, the Living Local facilitator for the NW Synod, led the Cross of Christ adult forum between services. It is my hope that you were able to attend this forum to learn more and become as excited as the four of us about the Living Local journey.

I invite you to look at Rev Hahn's blog on the Living Local initiative: <http://www.lutheransnw.org/Living-Local>

As your Guiding Team, we have committed to this work because we feel it is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation. We promise to keep you all informed of our progress over the next 18 months. In return, we ask that you joyfully volunteer when we ask for your help and keep us in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Bonnie Bowie



## BENEFIT CONCERT!

### *An Afternoon with Peregrine*

Saturday March 25th

4:00 PM

at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church 411 156th Ave. NE Bellevue



From Bach to Phillip Glass to Gershwin, he is playing it all. Peregrine Spane, a Major in Piano Performance at Central Washington University, will hold a concert sponsored by the Larks with net proceeds going to Cross of Christ Music Ministries.

Tickets Available at the Door  
Adults \$15  
Students \$10  
Children 12 and under Free



**BALTIC SEA CRUISE** - Cross of Christ member LaNita Landru is organizing an 11-days cruise on the Regal Princess for August 18-29. Ports of call include Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki, and Tallinn, Estonia, with two days in St. Petersburg as well. LaNita is extending an invitation to Cross of Christ members to join her on this adventure. To learn more, contact her at 425-641-1824 or [lalandru@aol.com](mailto:lalandru@aol.com).

Valentine's Day  
at the Ark  
Daycare



# Happy Spring!



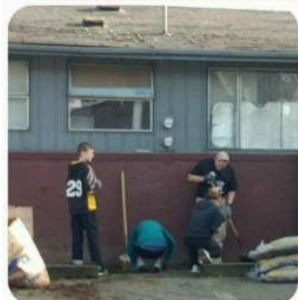
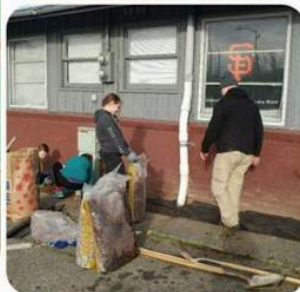
# YOUTH

It's time to dig out from the winter doldrums and into spring and summer fun! Did you catch the pictures from our Harvest Pack event? You can find them in our blog post: <https://goo.gl/f05tOA> In case you missed it, our Youth Discipleship kids also had another great service project: <https://goo.gl/NwRP2n>

Coming up: The YD kids will be going to YouthQuake at Great Wolf Lodge at the end of April for a weekend of service and learning. This will be our second year attending YouthQuake, and the first in this great new location! A group of high school students will be attending the May High School Youth Weekend at Holden Village at the end of May; there might still be one slot open if you're a high schoolers with a sudden desire to get far, far out of town for a couple of days. :-)

Blessings be unto all of you as you work through this second half of the school year!

--Kristie



**Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting**

**After the 10 am  
Reunion Sunday Service**

**Join us for lunch  
in the  
Fellowship Hall**

**Summer BBQ and Picnic  
July 30 after 10am  
Reunion Sunday Service**





*Be bold and Courageous - attend this year's Stewardship Presentation*

## STEWARDSHIP REVISITED

Over the past two years, or so, it has been our tradition to present a play that incorporates and helps tell the stewardship message in a unique and fun way. These plays are created, directed, produced and casted by our own gifted and artistic members.



This year's stewardship theme is Be Bold, be courageous, for God is with us -and you are thinking, didn't Pastor Dave give a three- part sermon series? – Absolutely. So, the Stewardship Committee began to think, "maybe we should walk the talk so to speak "

(smile) as we were considering this year's Stewardship presentation. And so, we did just that in creating this year's presentation.

This year, sit back and enjoy a visual presentation depicting the width and breath of our gifts , our use of those gifts here at Cross of Christ and how much we could accomplish if we had the resources to do so. This will be presented as part of the church service on April 30. We are excited about doing something a little different. And, yes, there will be a reception after since it is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.



The deadline for the Summer CrossCurrents is  
April 15.

Please email or hand deliver your articles to the office before this date.  
Thank you



## Ice Cream Social

### April 30, 11:30

After the 10am Reunion Service

# CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## FINANCIALS

### Financial Report Month and YTD Ended December 2016

	Month			Year - to - Date		
	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)
<b>Revenue</b>						
December 2016 General Fund Receipts	\$ 46,396	\$ 39,046	\$ 7,350	\$ 277,489	\$ 291,467	\$ (13,978)
December 2016 Other Income	\$ 4,309	\$ 2,467	\$ 1,842	\$ 18,644	\$ 19,733	\$ (1,089)
<b>December 2016 Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 50,705</b>	<b>\$ 41,513</b>	<b>\$ 9,192</b>	<b>\$ 296,133</b>	<b>\$ 311,200</b>	<b>\$ (15,067)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
December 2016	30,778	39,518	8,740	275,876	311,699	35,823
<b>Net/Year to Date Net</b>	<b>\$ 19,927</b>			<b>\$ 20,257</b>		

### Financial Report Month and YTD Ended January 2017

	Month			Year - to - Date		
	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)
<b>Revenue</b>						
January 2017 General Fund Receipts	\$30,552	\$36,046	\$(5,494)	\$308,041	\$327,512	\$(19,471)
January 2017 Other Income	\$4,650	\$2,592	\$2,058	\$23,294	\$22,325	\$969
<b>January 2017 Total Income</b>	<b>\$35,202</b>	<b>\$38,638</b>	<b>\$(3,436)</b>	<b>\$331,335</b>	<b>\$349,837</b>	<b>\$(18,502)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
January 2017	34,145	39,668	5,523	310,021	351,366	41,345
<b>Net/Year to Date Net</b>	<b>\$1,057</b>			<b>\$21,314</b>		





Ben Fowler  
Director of Music Ministries



The office will be closed  
Monday, April 17  
the day after Easter and  
Monday, May 29 for  
Memorial Day.

### **GIVING MADE EASY!**

Please take the  
opportunity to learn  
about the direct deposit  
service available to  
you. It is a way to have  
your giving done  
automatically—a worry-  
free way to give!

Contact Denise Fuentes  
for more details.

746-7300 EXT. 108

[BOOKKEEPER@COFCLC.NET](mailto:BOOKKEEPER@COFCLC.NET)

### **Office Hours / Email**

Main Office Hours:  
Mon-Thurs 9:30am-2pm  
425.746.7300

**Main Office Email**  
[Office@COFCLC.NET](mailto:Office@COFCLC.NET)

**Sunday Bulletin  
Announcements**  
[Office@COFCLC.NET](mailto:Office@COFCLC.NET)

**Room & Schedule  
Requests**  
[Office@COFCLC.NET](mailto:Office@COFCLC.NET)

Announcements  
deadline:  
Wednesdays at  
noon



## Contact Us

**Lead Pastor**  
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**Youth and Family**  
**Bookkeeper**  
**Office Manager**  
**Assistant Sexton**

**The Ark Childcare**

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Jaime Monk

Church Council

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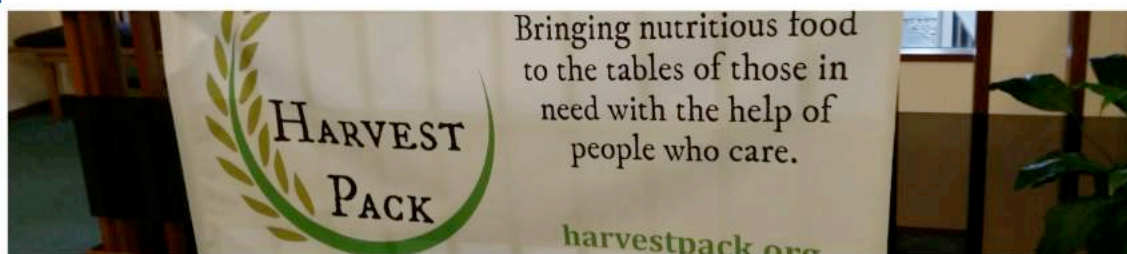
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<http://www.facebook.com/crossofchristbellevue>

<http://www.instagram.com/crossofchristbellevue>

# CROSS OF CHRIST



## Office Hours/Email

Main Office Hours:  
Mon-Thurs  
9:30am-2pm  
425.746.7300

Main Office Email  
Office@COFCLC.NET

Bulletin deadline:

Wednesdays at noon  
Next Newsletter  
deadline:  
APRIL 15

Cross of Christ's first [Harvest Pack](#) event was a resounding success! 52 people spent two hours packing 10,584 meals for hungry families in the Philippines on Sunday, turning a pile of raw materials into finished meals packed for shipment.



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Change Service Requested

