

Sept 2008



# CROTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Lifting Up Jesus for the Glory of God*

Eva Marie Wolfe, Pastor

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Sunday School 10 A.M. Morning Worship 11 A.M.

## THE MESSENGER

Wes Baker,  
Editor

*From the  
Minister*



As you probably know, my family and I recently returned from a vacation at the beach. This was a big family reunion, with about 35 members of the Wolfe family gathering from points all over the country. As you can imagine, it was a great opportunity for cousins to get re-acquainted and for us all to re-connect as a family.

We found out shortly before we arrived in Myrtle Beach that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers was going to begin dredging up sand from the ocean to "reclaim" the shore the week we were going to be there. We wondered what kind of an impact that would have on our plans to spend most of our time on the beach and in the water. When we arrived, we observed large pipes stacked up by the public walkway we normally use, with one already stretching out from the shore into in the water. Construction vehicles were parked nearby, and several areas were roped off. Barges and buoys were visible on the horizon. A large vehicle called a C.R.A.B.—it looked like something out of Star Wars to us—began mapping out the ocean floor with GPS technology.

On Thursday night, things really started happening. More pipe was laid and the beach reclamation began in earnest. When we arrived on the beach on Friday morning, we found the water "muddied" with loose sand. Sea creatures of all kinds were washing up on shore. The first ones we noticed were ugly, mushy "sea worms." These mysterious (dead) creatures were everywhere! I was ready to go back to the house and take all the kids back with me. Surely, this wasn't going to be a good day on the beach.

But, as we looked around, we began to see things differently. Jeff found a starfish, gave it to one of the grandkids, and promised to see if he could find more for another grandchild. Crabs, minnows, a huge horseshoe crab—and yes, **three** more starfish—soon followed. Large, beautiful sea shells, some housing hermit crabs and sea slugs, joined the collection. A French Canadian family got in on the joy of discovery, and worked together with our kids to build a sand castle and moat to house our new treasures, and to add more. Before we knew it, we had a entire marine lab, and nearly a dozen kids discovering first-hand things that are usually far out to sea. They spent hours playing and learning and laughing, and we could hardly get them to leave when it was time to go.

Like this strange and wonderful day on the beach, life circumstances outside our control sometimes cause us to wonder what is in store for us. It seems as though our whole world changes overnight—and the change is not looking so good. We ask ourselves if it is worthwhile to even participate in life, if that's the way it's going to be.

And yet, our God has assured us that He is in charge: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11) The word translated as "welfare" is actually "shalom"—meaning not just peace, but wholeness, completeness, soundness, safety, contentment. God's promise of shalom gives us the assurance that no circumstance is irredeemable, and that joy and beauty and hope are God's gifts to us in whatever situation we face.

Shalom,  
Pastor Em

שלום



## Worship in September

us. We experience it through the cross of Jesus Christ.

### **September 7: Communion**

**Scripture:** Exodus 12:1-14

**Message:** Let Me Check My Calendar

**Description:** The Passover event was so significant that the Lord ordered the Israelites to change their entire calendar system to commemorate it. We are also called to radical change in the way we organize our lives in response to the saving acts of the Lamb of God.

### **September 14**

**Scripture:** Exodus 14:19-31

**Message:** I Want to be on HIS Team

**Description:** The Egyptians recognized that the Lord of the Israelites was more powerful than the greatest army on earth. Why is it that Christians sometimes have a hard time understanding how powerful God really is?

### **September 21**

**Scripture:** Exodus 16:2-15

**Message:** Do You Trust Me?

**Description:** The Israelites complained that they would die in the wilderness, even after witnessing the great works the Lord did for them. We, too, often forget that God is with us, even though he delivers us from evil over and over again.

### **September 28**

**Scripture:** Matthew 13:24-30

**Message:** Weeds

**Description:** Charles will be preaching today



## Record of Faithfulness



Weekly Budget:  
\$1,565.00

Date	Attendance	Sunday School	Tithes
July 27	55	32	1,428.50
Aug 3	44	24	1,653.03
Aug 10	41	20	1,048.85
Aug 17	38	20	1,130.00
Aug 24	51	24	1,269.00



Thank you to everyone involved with the Summer Songburst Praise Service—Judy Baker, Wes Baker, Charles West, and Patrick West—and thanks to everyone who “tried it out.” We lifted the name of the Lord on high! We did a lot of praising

God, learned some new songs, and also learned a lot about using computer technology to assist in a worship service.

Please take a few moments to let us know what you thought about this service. If you attended—What did you like best? What would you do differently? Was this a good time to worship? And, whether or not you attended—would you attend if we offered this service again at the same time? At a different time? Please let Judy Baker or any member of the Worship Team know what you think.

Also, if you know anyone who could provide live accompaniment for praise music for this service (or the 11 AM service), or have a good source for accompaniment music that is appropriate for congregational singing, please let Judy know.

**angelfood** MINISTRIES Angel Food has new boxes designed especially for seniors. The new senior box has 10 pre-packaged heat-and-serve meals that are nutritionally balanced with 3 oz. protein, 2 fruits or vegetables and one starch each. The cost of this box is \$25.00. Although it was designed especially for the needs of seniors, you do NOT have to be a senior to purchase this box. If you purchase a senior box or a regular box, you can purchase any specials you choose.

A new family special called "5 for 4" has five heat-and-serve meals for busy families, designed to feed a family of four on the go.

If you haven't tried out Angel Food yet, or if the regular box had too much food for your family, you may want to try out the new boxes!

Orders for September may be placed at the church on September 10 from 10 am – 12 pm and September 11 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Please call Debbie Retherford for other times. Orders placed at the church must be paid for by cash, money order, cashier's check, or EBT card (food stamps). If you place orders online on our church's website or at [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com) (choose our church as the host site) you may pay by credit/debit card. All orders must be placed by Sunday, September 14. Orders can be picked up on Saturday, September 27 in the fellowship hall from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

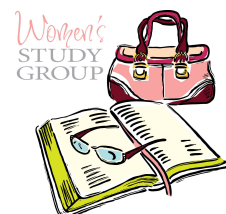
It may seem as though Christmas is a long time away, but it's coming up fast! This year's Croton Christmas celebration will be held on December 7, 2008.

Please mark the date. Sign-ups will be available in the Welcome Center for making sandwiches and for set-up, serving and clean-up. Also, we will be having some special music in addition to the combined children's choir, combined adult choir, and bell choir this year. If you are interested in performing, please tell Pastor Em or Cheri Pokorny.



Many activities are starting up again, now that Fall has arrived. Take a look at these great opportunities for learning and fellowship! If you haven't tried out one of these groups before, now may be the time!

The Women's Bible Study will be moving to Tuesday nights, beginning September 9. We will be starting a new study at that time, so if you've been thinking about joining the group, this would be a great time to join!



Make a joyful noise! Adult and Bell Choir rehearsals are beginning on September 10. Adult Choir is from 6:30-7:30 and Bell Choir is from 7:30-8:30. Children's Choir will begin next month. Come sing with us!



United Methodist Women is also starting up again this month. Our first regular meeting will

be Thursday, September 18 at 7 pm at the church. All women of the church are welcome to attend and to be part of the group.

We have been invited to attend the Alexandria UMW Fall Luncheon on September 10 at 12 noon. If you are interested in attending, please let Dorothea or Elnora know.



## greeters

### CALLING ALL GREETERS! LET'S MOVE!

Greeters do more than hand out bulletins. You may be the first person seen when someone walks in the door. You may also be the church's link to the outside world during the Sunday worship service. That means you may get to make the first impression on someone new to the church. Let's make it a good one!

The Church Growth Committee has been looking at our church with a critical eye to see how we might look to visitors. To improve our contact with visitors, we are asking that greeters move down the steps and greet people as they first come in the door. This gives the greeter a chance to not only greet the person and pass out bulletins, but also will provide an opportunity to direct the visitor to the sanctuary and, if needed, help with seating.

Yes, this is a change, but the Church Growth Committee is seeking everyone's cooperation in making changes, hoping that these changes encourage growth. One way to encourage growth is to make a good first impression. Making our greeters available at the door is a great way to make a good first impression. So, come on, greeters, LET'S MOVE (to stand inside the doors)!

### COME GROW WITH US!

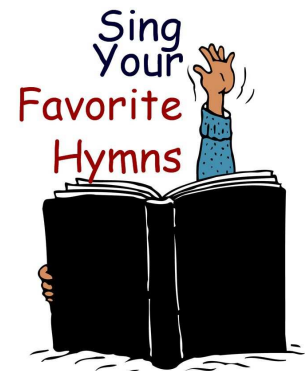
The Church Growth Committee has been working hard, exploring new ways to increase attendance at church. Right now, ideas are plentiful, but helping hands are not. There are lots of ways to participate. Can you write a letter? Make a phone call? Put together visitor packets? Make a visit? Put up posters? Distribute flyers?

Whatever you can do, the Church Growth Committee needs you to get involved. If there is something you can do, please come to the Committee meetings or tell Pastor Em or Cheri Pokorny how you are willing to help. And remember to pray for your church!



### HYMN SING!

We had such a great time when Michael Padula came back to sing with us, that we've invited him and Rebecca, and his churches, to come back and join us for a hymn sing on Saturday, September 27 at 7 pm. Join in and sing all your favorite hymns, and be sure to invite your neighbors. Light refreshments will be served in the Welcome Center.



### WELCOME, BABY CARA!

We wish many blessings on the Ross family as they welcome baby Cara to the family—and we congratulate Carson on becoming a big brother! Cara was born on August 20.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFO

Pastor Em's office hours are changing slightly for Fall. Beginning in September, the office will be open 8am-12 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, and 1-5 pm on Thursday. Any changes for a particular week will be written on the white board outside the office. Of course, you can always contact Pastor Em at 740-893-2181 (church/home) or on her cell phone 740-817-3119 should you need to speak to her or have an emergency.





**CHARGE CONFERENCE**

Our Church Conference will be held this year on Sunday, September 21 at Miller Memorial. The Church Conference starts at 3:30 p.m. Pastor-Parish Relations meeting will be held before the charge conference, at 3:00 p.m. All members of the church are welcome to attend and to vote on the business of the church.

**and Conference News****LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The Lay Leadership Team (formerly called Nominations) will be meeting on September 3 at 7 p.m. to begin the process of call for church leaders for the coming year. Please prayerfully consider your participation on the various church teams and in leadership positions and be prepared to respond if you are called. You may also contact Pastor Em to let her know what positions you wish to fill for the coming year.

**CREATION CARE WORKSHOP**

The Conference is sponsoring a Creation Care Workshop on Saturday, October 11 from 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Children's Home in Worthington. Topics include energy audits for churches and households, Lenten Green Resources, and Environmental Advocacy. See the bulletin board for more information. This is a great opportunity for our church to learn how to save money on energy costs and be more environmentally conscious. If you would like to attend, please contact Pastor Em by October 5.

**COMMUNITY MINISTRY FESTIVAL AND ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of Community Ministries, the district mission organization, is on Tuesday, September 23 from 5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. The evening will include displays from various ministry organizations and individual church ministries from our district and from Capital Area North. The evening includes dinner; presentations from speakers on Passion, Gifts, and Partnerships; and the annual meeting of Community Ministries, which includes announcement of those churches who have been awarded grants. (We have applied for two capital project grants and one outreach grant.) More information is on the bulletin board. If you would like to attend, please contact Pastor Em by September 14.

**HEARTBEATS GOLF SCRAMBLE**

A golf outing is being held to benefit Heartbeats of Licking County on September 13, 2008. If you are interested in participating in this fundraiser, please see the bulletin board outside the office for more details.

**BUS STOP VOLUNTEERS**

The Church of Christ is sponsoring a bus stop for children and youth in the mornings so they have shelter in bad weather, and to allow for a direct shuttle from Croton to the primary school in Alexandria. If you are able to volunteer one morning a week (from about 6:55 a.m. -8:20 a.m.), please let Pastor Em know. Jeff and I have each volunteered to help one morning a week, and I know first-hand that this has been a benefit to many families in our community.



### SON CATCHERS

Son Catchers will be celebrating the Fall season with a trip to Lynd's Fruit Farm on September 13 to pick apples. We'll have "bushels" of fun and we will find that God has something important to teach us with apples! Meet at church at 10 am and we will carpool to Lynd's.

Upcoming events for Son Catchers include the exciting new Son Catcher's Bible School, which will be held on the third Saturday of each month, beginning in October. Look for details in next month's Messenger, and be sure to invite your friends for a great time of Bible School fun and learning!



### CHURCH PICNIC

Our all-church events are sponsored by the children and youth for the benefit of everyone in our church family.

Our next all-church event will be our annual picnic at Centerburg Park on Sunday, September 14. Bring a covered dish to share and meet us at the park at 5:00 p.m. We'll enjoy a variety of games and entertainment and, of course, good food and good company!



### FULL THROTTLE FOR CHANGE

We're excited about starting up again with our Fall activities and about everyone getting back together again.

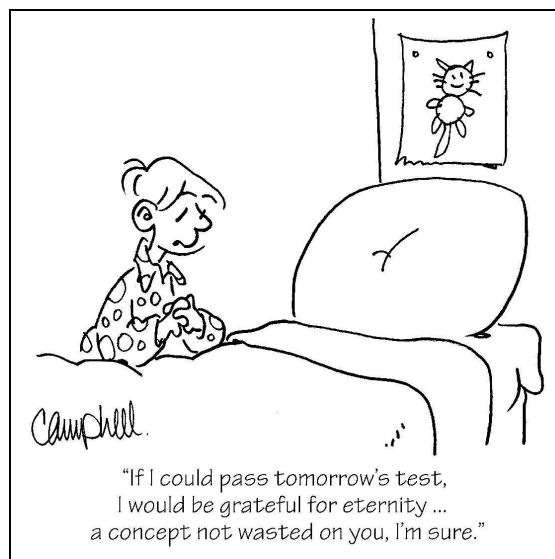
FTC is starting an exciting new program in the Fall—Mystery Trips! Each month between now and the end of the year, we will go to one or more locations. We won't tell you ahead of time where we're going, but we promise you'll like it!

Our first mystery trip is on September 7. We will be leaving from church at 3 p.m. Be ready for anything! And be sure to invite your friends.

The next trips will be held on the first Sunday of each month, so mark your calendars for October 5, November 2, and December 7.

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

We will be starting a confirmation class in October. Please let Pastor Em know if you are interested in participating in this class by September 15. We will need to know what days and times work best for you so that we can best plan when class meetings will be held.





## I WANT TO BE LIKE JESUS...

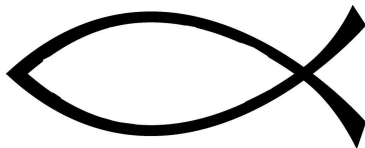
A teenager had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair...."

To which his father replied...."Yes, and they WALKED everywhere they went!"

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Return Service Requested

