



# Church of the Three Crosses

Many journeys. One community.

## NEWSLETTER

July - August  
2010

### COTTC's Art Fair Fundraiser

Though the Saturday weather was trying, ultimately, our spirits nor our efforts were dampened by the rain.

The weather did play a significant part in our proceeds, but as a community we pulled together and gave what we could to the effort. At press time, we had a gross income of \$8,551 (that includes "grace" donations of \$1,615 and "After Art Fair" purchased goods) and expenses of \$3,427, leaving a net income for the weekend of \$5,124; a great help in our cash flow. And amazingly, we had 52 unduplicated volunteers over the weekend who volunteered some 504 hours. Your hard work and commitment to this church's mission is inspiring.

### COTTC Progressive Dinner Summertime and The Living Is Easy: Annual Progressive Dinner

**Update! Date To Be Determined**

Our three-course progressive dinner starts at the church and proceeds to two homes within a two-block radius. So park once (at the church) and walk short distances for delicious summertime fare and great fellowship. More details to come!



### Concerts in the Park Millennium Park, that is...

*We are trying something new this summer!*



There are wonderful, free concerts throughout the summer at Millennium Park as part of the Grant Park Music Festival. Behty Harrison is organizing us to take advantage of these musical opportunities and to share in some great fun.

#### Details:

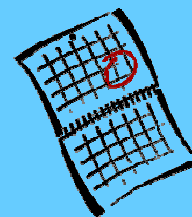
- ◆ Those who want to meet at the church and travel together, meet 1½ hour before the concert at the church and we will travel together via CTA bus, to Millennium Park.
- ◆ Others who want to meet us at the park, look for the **purple Three Crosses t-shirt** and that is where we will be; we will try as much as possible to be in the center of the grassy area. Bring something to sit on, like a blanket or towel. Bring some food to share.

If you are interested in attending any of the concerts, if you could e-mail Erika at [admin@churchofthethreecrosses.org](mailto:admin@churchofthethreecrosses.org) she will let me or Behty know who might be coming. Sign-up isn't necessary, however... if you get a last minute whim to come, just come!

The link to the schedule is: [www.grantparkmusicfestival.com/the-music/2010-season](http://www.grantparkmusicfestival.com/the-music/2010-season)

#### DAYS OF INTEREST

- July 4 Communion Offering  
*Howard Brown Health Center*
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 5-11 Pastor Hobbs on Vacation
- July 8 Mission Outreach:  
*The Night Ministry*
- July 11 Guest Preacher:  
Matt Richards
- July 18 *Facing Forward* House Passed
- July 21 Council Meeting
- July 25 Youth Event
- July 27 COTTC Book Group
- July 30 Pastor Hobbs Out of Town  
(returning August 9)



- Aug. 1 Guest Preacher: TBD
- Aug. 8 Guest Preacher: TBD
- Aug. 12 Mission Outreach:  
*The Night Ministry*
- Aug. 15 *Facing Forward* House Passed
- Aug. 29 "Blessing of the Animals"  
Service

## Living into Grace

The generosity of this congregation is inspiring. When the Council approved the 2010 budget we knew that these were very challenging economic times. Using past years' financial information as a guide, we worked very hard at forecasting expenses and income based upon sound financial judgments and experience. We have also been working to maximize our resources and stretch them as far as possible to cover basic operating expense. For example, Erika is a master in finding coupons and deals when ordering office supplies; every dollar saved helps our budget.

Our 2010 budget included a "grace" line item in the income side of the balance sheet; an income line that we knew we needed to cover expenses, but really did not know from where it would come. Our "grace" line item was \$22,000 for the year. Some in the financial world would say, we approved a deficit budget, yet we called it a grace budget. And grace it has been. Through June, we have received \$11,000 in our "grace" line item. These funds have been critical in meeting our financial obligations.

As you have read in this newsletter, our Art Fair fundraiser income was approximately \$5,100, down approximately \$2,500 ± over previous years. It has also been the generous Sunday offerings that people give week after week, month after month, that forms the foundation of our income. Because we are so blessed by those week after week commitments and the "grace" of abundance, we are able to meet our financial demands. And it is by grace that so many are willing to make such significant investments in the work and ministry of this faith community.

## Mission Outreach: The Night Ministry

Over the summer, our evenings supporting the work of *The Night Ministry* will continue. On the second Thursday evening, we meet at the church at 7:30pm to prepare for the night, making sandwiches and packing the items for the snacks we provide at the *Night Ministry's* Health Bus stop.

Amy Viola has been providing leadership as we plan our menu. If you would like to be a part of this important outreach – let Amy know.

Amy Viola at: [Viola\\_Amy@yahoo.com](mailto:Viola_Amy@yahoo.com)

## Facing Forward To End Homelessness Family Sponsorship "House"

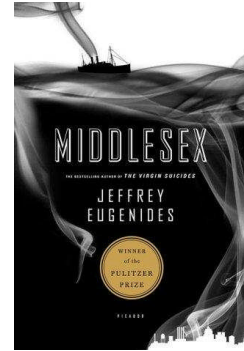
Each third Sunday of the month during the receiving of the Offering, a small house will also be passed throughout the congregation.

This house symbolizes our commitment to partner with *Facing Forward* to house a family; to provide a rental subsidy so that a family can move from the shelter system to permanent housing. All of the funds you place in the house will support our commitment to this rental subsidy.

## BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, July 27 • 7:00pm

Meeting at COTTC



The book we are reading:

**"Middlesex"**

**By Jeffrey Eugenides**

## COMMUNION

July Offering

Howard Brown Health Center  
[www.howardbrown.org](http://www.howardbrown.org)

August Offering

Tuleeni Orphans Home  
[www.tuleeni.org](http://www.tuleeni.org)

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, August 29 • 11:00am

Park Amphitheater, Sedgwick & Wisconsin

Our annual Blessing Of the Animals is a time of celebrating the gift of pets and the important part animals play in the ecological balance of our world. Bring your pets of every kind for an enriching Worship time!

**Please Note:** Small pets should be caged to protect them from the larger animals.