



# First Sunday

DECEMBER, 2009  
Volume 3, Issue 12

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**LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETS  
ON DECEMBER 10th,  
THURSDAY, 7:00 pm AT THE  
CENTRE**

**Christmas Eve at Crosswood  
Centre - 7:30 PM**

## **Liturgy Schedule**

10:00 Sunday  
Crosswood Centre  
Chapel of Mary Magdalene  
5535 Co. Rd. 35  
Auburn, IN 46706-9717

10:00 AM Sunday  
Redwood Chapel  
2425 Redwood Avenue  
Fort Wayne, IN 46803  
(Thanks to Rose & Stan)

9:00 AM Sunday  
Angola Crosswood  
3472 North Wayne St.  
Angola, IN 46703

## **ANNUAL MEETING NOTES**

These aren't the official minutes of the meeting, as I haven't yet received them but just my recollections from the meeting. There was a small group of us who met for the annual meeting which was presided over by Ken Erlenbaugh, our president. There were also some people who were there to cast their votes through proxy ballot. All total, there were 23 ballots cast and there were a couple of guests as well. Bishop David came all the way from Green Bay to join us for the liturgy and the annual meeting. Awesome! Fr. Chip, who was out of state for a while was also back for a visit. He is now living in Berrien Springs, Michigan so perhaps we will see him more often now.

There was a brief review given of the progress we have made on the goals set out at last year's annual meeting. Basically, we have done very well in meeting many of the goals we set. Ken gave an update on the budget, and we have \$288 left in our current bank account at this point and we should be able to access soon the \$4800.00 that is in our account in Angola, now that we have an official treasurer. We will definitely need that money as we have insurance bills coming due in January and we also have heating bills and electric bills to pay.

The main items on the agenda were the revisions for the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws and the election of board members. The revisions for both the Articles and the By-Laws were passed unanimously with one abstention. They will be filed with the Secretary of State and the Department of Revenue this month.

The following members were elected to our Board of Directors: Ken Erlenbaugh, Tom North, Bart Putnam, Vince Cuestas, Cyndi Smith, John Newbauer. These members along with our pastors, Fr. Cliff and Mo. Joan, make up our new Board of Directors. The newly elected board met immediately following the annual meeting and elected Ken as president, John as secretary and Cyndi as treasurer. They also established rotating terms for themselves so that they would not all be going off the board at the same time. Cliff and Joan Their next meeting will be in January.

Fr. John updated us on progress at the Centre. A lot has been accomplished this past year and with the passing of Fr. Skip and Isabelle, even more was necessary. Both Fr. Skip and Isabelle had trustees who took care of disposing of their things. We have tried our best to renew the house and there is yet more to be done. The upstairs carpet is very dirty and stained and will be removed shortly. We will need to find new carpet to put in as the underflooring is just that, underflooring and not hardwood. The kitchen and dining room as well as what was Isabelle's room has been freshly painted and looks very nice. The garage has been torn down and a dumpster is coming to dispose of the remaining waste. Anyone who has some time and is so inclined may stop by and help move things to the dumpster - just check in

## ADVENT-CHRISTMAS REFLECTION FROM FR. SKIP

*(I was looking through some notes and found this reflection from 2003 and thought you might enjoy it - Fr. John)*

with Dick or Stella and they can give you some directions. Stella and Dick with the help of their nephew Terry, have been busy replacing the siding on the front of the breezeway between their residence and the main house and they have also put drainage tile leading the drains from the eaves spouting away from the house, which should help keep things dryer. Stella's also been busy painting the east door to the chapel in between mowing the laws and doing other cleaning. John and Cliff met with a realtor to get information about current real estate market and estimated value of the property if the Board should choose to sell it. They also got good advice about what needs to happen to make it most presentable for showing. Basically, we have a lot of work to be done.

In addition to finishing the clean up of the garage "leavings," we have to clean the upstairs, replace the carpet and get rid of the cat odor in the house. We have to repair the header on the door downstairs leading out to the pond, and finishing cleaning and painting that lower level.

Vicki and Paul Groves told us about a new project, "Skip's Gifts," which they will be coordinating for us. Basically, they will try to match what donations we have in the form of clothing and food or other gifts to people who are in need. They have a lot of experience working with homeless people in Fort Wayne and will be able to use their knowledge of the needs of people with our ability to provide donations. If you would like to know what they need or if you have some money that can be used to purchase items or if you have clothes or food or other things to donate, please contact Vickie at 260-348-1774 or Paul at 260-797-2416.

Leadership Team will meet on Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 at the Centre in Auburn.

Fr. John

### YOGA CLASSES TAKE A BREATHER

We will take a break for the Holiday season and resume yoga class on Wednesday, January 6, at 9:30. Same place-- Redwood Chapel. If you are interested in coming and have questions about the class give me, Rose Schamberg, a call at 260-420-1798.

### TUESDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES

We are meeting on Tuesday evening at 7:00 to 8:30 at Redwood Chapel and are reading together *The Shack* by William P. Young. This book brings up extremely relevant issues for modern Christians - issues having to do with death and dying, pain and suffering, evil and evil-doers, redemption, images of God and all kinds of distorted ideas that may hinder our entering into a loving relationship with God and with each other. Join us at Redwood for some interesting discussion.

John+

In the weeks before Christmas Eve we are encouraged to go about our lives with a greater measure of silence, reflection, prayer and fasting - this is about as counter-cultural as it gets. Such as ascetic routine is not about pain and punishment; rather, it is about sharpening our instincts and heightening our faith vision.

Down deep in the heart of our faith vision is an awareness that with Mary's troubled but trusting "yes" to her pregnancy, everything has changed. The moment that the creator became created everything in creation is no longer simply what it was, as good as that might have been. The entire spectrum of relationships in the cosmos is sparked with a new reality. The birth of Jesus means that at a moment in time, in a particular Palestinian place, what had been hidden in the lively darkness of a womb is now seen, touched, heard. The ordinary birth of a child (despite the fact that some church fathers taught that this birth was not ordinary) signals a cosmic revolution perhaps dreamed of but unknown.

Medical folks now tell us that there are certain exercises one can do with the eyes that will considerably less the need for or dependency on glasses or contact lenses. In a sense, this is the purpose of any and all Christian ascetics: to be able to exercise our faith vision so that we can see more acutely and sharply what a famous poet once described as the "deep down" of things beyond the ordinary. That is a tas of this and all seasons until we are all gathered.

Those of us who have been led into this faith family - almost all of us by a winding and twisting path that would tax any star-chaser - have been ushered into what one of our own has reminded us: a place of poverty which calls upon us all to be simply handmaids, servants of the faith vision that still unfolds from that first YES uttered by a powerless young woman probably not many moons past menarche. She continues to invite us to plumb the ordinary for what is quite extraordinary, to step beyond our differences, our weaknesses, and our sins into a universe still becoming in us and around us what it already is in her because of her offspring. The ordinary is extraordinary.

Hopefully,  
+Skip

## Clergy Schedule October

Date	Angola	Auburn	Redwood
Dec 6	Joan	+Vince	+Bob
Dec 13	+Vince	+Bob	Cliff
Dec 20	Tom	Josh	+Vince
Dec 24	No Liturgy	+Vince +Bob	No Liturgy
Dec 25	Joan	No Liturgy	No Liturgy
Dec 27		John	
Jan 3	Tom	+Vince	John

## Community of the Cross

### Leadership Committee Contact Info

Fr. John Newbauer, Chairman, 615-0156  
 Ken Erlenbaugh, President, 833-1313  
 Fr. +Vince Cuestas, 426-8885  
 Mother Kris'ta Cuestas, 426-8885  
 Cyndi Smith, Core South, 483-9278  
 Br. Richard Lounsbury & Stella, 336-2276  
 Mother Joan North, 833-3412  
 Fr./Dcn. Tom North, 833-3412  
 Fr. Cliff Polubinsky, 433-1971  
 e-mail: c.polubinsky@juno.com  
 Mother Maria vanValkenburg, 485-3707  
 Fr. +Robert Zahrt, 471-6573

## READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

<a href="#">Second of Advent December 6, 2009</a>	<a href="#">Malachi 3:1-4</a> or <a href="#">Baruch 5:1-9</a>	<a href="#">Luke 1:68-79</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 1:3-11</a>	<a href="#">Luke 3:1-6</a>
<a href="#">Third of Advent December 13, 2009</a>	<a href="#">Zephaniah 3:14-20</a>	<a href="#">Isaiah 12:2-6</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 4:4-7</a>	<a href="#">Luke 3:7-18</a>
<a href="#">Fourth of Advent December 20, 2009</a>	<a href="#">Micah 5:2-5a</a>	<a href="#">Luke 1:46b-55</a> or <a href="#">Psalm 80:1-7</a>	<a href="#">Hebrews 10:5-10</a>	<a href="#">Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)</a>
<a href="#">Nativity of the Lord - Proper I December 24 &amp; 25</a>	<a href="#">Isaiah 9:2-7</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 96</a>	<a href="#">Titus 2:11-14</a>	<a href="#">Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)</a>
<a href="#">Nativity of the Lord - Proper III December 24 &amp; 25</a>	<a href="#">Isaiah 52:7-10</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 98</a>	<a href="#">Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)</a>	<a href="#">John 1:1-14</a>
<a href="#">First Sunday after Christmas Day December 27</a>	<a href="#">1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 148</a>	<a href="#">Colossians 3:12-17</a>	<a href="#">Luke 2:41-52</a>
<a href="#">New Year's Day January 1, 2010</a>	<a href="#">Ecclesiastes 3:1-13</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 8</a>	<a href="#">Revelation 21:1-6a</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 25:31-46</a>
<a href="#">Second Sunday after Christmas Day January 3, 2010</a>	<a href="#">Jeremiah 31:7-14</a> or <a href="#">Sirach 24:1-12</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 147:12-20</a> or <a href="#">Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21</a>	<a href="#">Ephesians 1:3-14</a>	<a href="#">John 1:(1-9), 10-18</a>

## Remember in your prayers

We ask your prayers especially for Al and Judy Patterson. Al is back in the hospital with an infection. Please keep him and Judy in your prayers.

Remember also our brothers and sisters Ramona, Fr. Jim and Emma Spink, Russell Riebe, Vicki Groves, Julie, Bro Richard and all those who are ill or in need of prayer. Pray for the leaders of our church, for Archbishop Bob and Bishop David as well as all our leaders. Remember those among us who are sick and in need of prayer. Remember also those who are unemployed or underemployed, for those who are alone and lonely, and for those who have no one to pray for them. Remember especially our benefactors, those who help us through their generous gifts of time, money and prayers.