

**Blessed NOCC Community** O Gosh----thanks to our Community Life Team for planning a very fun little party for the 20th anniversary of the Carr family's arrival at NOCC. Kathy and I were covered in paper hearts, a fabulous image for the ways we ALL gift each other in community. There was cake, there was pie, a gorgeous hand made quilt ( Laraine!) and a KSU blanket (Janell!) It has been pure grace to be part of the North Oak story, the story of a uniquely creative and capable and hopeful family of faith. Remarkable chapters have yet to be written. I am energized by what we may yet discover of God's call upon us to be church in such a dynamic moment in history!

**ASH WEDNESDAY-----SEEKING HELPERS** Our annual Ash Wednesday Observance with our neighbors at Holy Family Parish is on March 6 7PM. It's my year to give the homily-----always an honor. As usual, some of our choir folks will join the HF choir and Jeff Nunn will assist with accompaniment. I am seeking the help of 5 additional NOCC folks to participate. We need two greeters to help pass out worship materials and songbooks, and we need two volunteers to assist in distribution of the ashes-----placing ashes on the foreheads of all who come forward to receive this striking symbol of graced humility. Contact me to volunteer!

**CELEBRATING FAVORITE HYMN TEXTS** Do you have a favorite hymn text? Maybe more than one? I'm talking about the words here more than the music but of course they both tend to enhance the other. For our Lenten Soup Suppers this year I am wondering if 10-15 people (2-3 per week) would be willing to take a few minutes to share their favorite hymn texts---the words, and to share how and why the words of a particular text are meaningful. I'm not sure why, but in recent months I've been paying closer attention to the texts of the hymns Jeff selects for Sunday and wow-----lots of beauty and eloquence and rich theology/spirituality there! If you were wanting to share a favorite hymn text be assured you would NOT be expected to lead us in singing it. The emphasis would be on the words and their significance to you. It MAY be that we do some singing, but this is not part of the assignment I am giving here. Our Soup Suppers begin Wednesday March 13. Then March 20, 27, April 3 and 10. SO PONDER THIS AND LET ME KNOW WHICH DATE YOU PREFER!

**WELCOMING THE STRANGER** is an event being offered to NOCC youth on Sunday March 3 3-6PM at Community Christian Church. It will feature a fabulous look at ministries in Greater Kansas City which are working with refugees. Contact Sara for details.

**REGIONAL DISCIPLES SUMMER CHURCH CAMP DATES** are listed on the Tall Oaks Web site.

**REGIONAL DISCIPLES WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT** is planned for March 8-9 at Tall Oaks. "Tell Me A Story" is the theme to be explored with Dr. Marti

Steussy, Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Earlybird Registration deadline is February 8. Final registration deadline is February 22. Contact Debbie Herrick for more information. <https://www.talloaks.org/gkc-dwm-retreat-2019>

**DISCIPLES GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DES MOINES---ROAD TRIP?** The General Assembly of the Christian Church happens every 2 years in various cities from coast to coast. IT WILL NOT BE THIS CLOSE TO KC FOR AWHILE. So-----Rob is planning to attend a portion of the event July 22-23 and is happy to have company. Costs would include registration for the event, hotel room, food, etc. Be in touch with Rob if interested.

**CHERITH BROOK WISH LIST** As you can imagine, our friends at Cherith Brook are dealing with cold weather issues and needs related to feeding the homeless folks who stop in for a bite to eat and a shower. So shower supplies always needed, along with personal hygiene items. Cold weather items such as chap stick, cold meds, sleeping bags, blankets, socks are always welcome. **BELTS OF ANY SIZE AND MEN'S AND WOMEN'S UNDERGARMENTS ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED.** Items for the house/kitchen include rice, salt/pepper, sugar, creamer (Roasterie donates coffee) dish soap, and energy saving light-bulbs.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Saturday 745AM Men's Breakfast at Kate's

Sunday 9AM Groups for all ages

Monday 6PM Troop 900

Monday 630PM NOCC Elders

Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible group

Tuesday 6PM pack 900

ASH WEDNESDAY 7PM AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Thursday 6PM Girl Scouts

Saturday 430PM Sherry Yoder Music Recital

## SAVE THE DATES

NOCC LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS BEGIN WEDNESDAY MARCH 13 6PM

REZOUND BELL CHOIR IN CONCERT AT NOCC PALM SUNDAY APRIL 14 3PM

NOCC Eastertide Weekend Retreat at Marillac Center in Leavenworth KS April 26-28

YOU, ME AND THE ENNEAGRAM Led by Lori Hall May 11 930AM May 16 630PM May 23 630PM

*The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with Godself included in that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant.*

**Dallas Willard**

With you in ministry

Rob