

Join Us on Sundays
9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m.
We have a place for you!



Thou Shalt Not Forget

Event for Ellie!

Ellie is a very sweet six-year-old from our congregation who has been through more than any child should go through. Her family found out on January 4 that she had a massive brain tumor. She has been through two brain surgeries. Doctors were able to remove 98% of the tumor. She recently began chemotherapy treatment. Ellie and her family have a long journey ahead of them, but they are moving in the right direction. Our congregation is hosting this event to *shower Ellie with love* and *raise funds* to help her family pay for the astronomical medical bills.

This event will include: Pancake breakfast - before, in between, and after our 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. services; concert - live music begins at 12:30 p.m., including some of Ellie's favorite songs; crafts - for children of all ages; and a raffle and auction.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16 - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.!! Bring the kids to hunt for candy-filled eggs, color some eggs, have a treat,

and much more! Lots of fun! There is a list of donation items needed and areas to volunteer for in the Welcome Room. The event will run rain or shine. Oh yea, bring your camera because Mr. Easter Bunny just might show up too! This is a community event so spread the word.

Vacation Bible School for 2011

July 18 to 22!! Connected to Creation is coming! Volunteers interested in helping should contact Nicole Nelson (contact info through the church office) or sign up using the sheet in the worship room.

Easter Worship

Join us this Easter.
 Palm Sunday Worship - Sunday, April 17th 9:00 & 10:45 am
 Maundy Thursday - April 21st 7:00 pm Seder Meal
 Good Friday - April 22nd 7:00 pm
 Easter Sunday - April 24th 7:30, 9:00, & 10:45 am

More information at Crossofglory.com



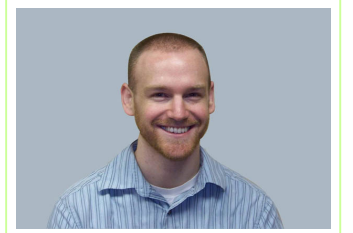
Return Service Requested



April 2011

Spreading

Pastor PJ Malin



My wife loves to bake. Recently we had homemade bread. We spread some butter on the bread and oh, was it incredible!

I am a little particular about spreading the butter. I don't like it when some parts of the bread have butter and others don't. I like to spread the butter so it touches every part of the bread.

I imagine that how I feel about spreading the butter is similar to how God feels about us spreading the Good News. God wants the Good News to touch every heart and every life in every community around the world. God doesn't want a single person to go a single day without knowing God is with them, God loves them, God sent his son to save them, God has great plans for their life, and that they can turn to God and God's people for help in every situation.

God cares about every person that we know and invites us to be a part of spreading the Good News so it touches every heart and every life we are connected to. We have the privilege and the responsibility of spreading the Good News about God and about what God is doing in our community of faith with the people in our lives - friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

Many of you are doing a great job spreading. We just had a really large New Member Class, and several of the people said they heard about our church through friends or from people they worked with.

Another member came up with a really fun spreading idea. She and her husband created wristbands that have our church website and an uplifting Scripture verse. She made enough for us to share. We will be handing these out to anyone who would like to wear them and help spread the Word.

On Ash Wednesday, I handed out "Don't Give Up" cards and encouraged us all to perform two acts of kindness and share a card with someone. This is a way to not only spread the Good News but to show it as well. I promised I'd never ask you to do something I wouldn't do myself! I handed out one of my cards last week and it was so cool!

There are so many fun ways to spread. I mentioned a few. If you are looking for more easy and fun ways to spread, just ask me and I'd be happy to share more.

This Lent and Easter, let's all make a conscious effort to do some spreading. We are celebrating the very core and center of our Good News. Our sermon series is "Don't Give Up." It concludes on Easter with the message "Don't Give Up...On Miracles!" We will have three services 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 10:45 a.m. Invite someone ... or better yet, bring someone with you.

Together we can spread the Good News until it touches every heart and every life in every community around the world. And oh, what an incredible day that will be!

Join us for Worship:

Sundays
 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
CoffeeHouse Worship:
 Wednesdays
 6:00 p.m.
 All with Holy Communion.
 All are welcome!

Staff:
 PJ Malin, *Pastor*

Laura Uzzardo,
Parish Administrator

Mimi Pappas,
Nursery Attendant

Bob Bejlovec
Maintenance

Jamie Knutson
Director - The Welcome Place Preschool

Sharon Aden,
Director - The Welcome Place Christian Care & Counseling Center

Please e-mail Laura Uzzardo if you prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail: laura@crossofglory.com If you would like to be taken off our mailing list please give Laura a Call at **708-301-6998**.

Thank You.

Michael and Lisa O'Malley, *Editors*

Rising Above Difficult Times

Most everyone at Cross of Glory would know Diane Grishaber if you saw her...sometimes on Sundays and sometimes on Wednesdays. Regardless of which service she currently frequents, Diane can often be seen sitting in the Welcome area talking to her fellow churchgoers. She is usually surrounded...

Seeing as Diane is such a fixture around the church, your humble editorial staff thought it would be a really cool idea for everyone to get to know her a bit. Here goes...

Churchly History

Diane has been a member of CoG for about three and a half years. She has kept busy during that time.

"I've done some volunteer work with RISEN," Diane said. "I belong to the Wednesday Night Bible study. My group in that class had a few baby sitting events."

For those 'not in the know', these baby sitting events are an interesting little opportunity at CoG. It works like this: you and the spouse need to get out of the house...you know, the kids are driving you a little bonkers, you haven't gone out in quite a while, and you are starting to see singing purple dinosaurs dancing in your sleep...while you're awake. From time to time, volunteers at CoG will publish a date where they will offer baby sitting services at the church. So...assuming those published dates match with your need to get out of the house, you simply drop the kids off on the aforementioned evening and go off to dance the night away. No worries right? Diane will take care of the kids!

"Also, a group of us at CoG planned an Earth Day event," she continued. "I also belonged to the Outreach group and we had a very successful Santa event." [see December issue for a summary of this event.]

Diane states that her favorite part of a typical CoG service is the peace that comes over her. "I love the music, the way service is geared towards the little ones and just listening. I also enjoy watching Pastor PJ really get into his sermons!"

Family Business

We on the editorial staff are always impressed with people whose marriages last over many years. Diane earns an award for this one: she and her husband Richard have been married for - drum roll please - 51 years!

"My family is my joy," Diane said. "My son Mark is the Assistant Principal at Whitney Young Magnet School. He has a daughter named Kayla. My daughter Michelle has four children, Nicholas, Andrew, Danielle, and Ben. It was Michelle who originally got me hooked on CoG. She works in the office at Lincolnway Christian Church in New Lenox. I am very blessed with my five grandchildren!"

Diane recently experienced something of a nightmare with one of her grandchildren. "My oldest grandson Nicholas is 16 years old. About three or four months ago he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. It was removed and thankfully it was benign. His recovery has been slow. He still has problems with his vision but the doctors say that will take some time to heal.



He's being tutored home and that seems to be going good for him."

He's being tutored home and that seems to be going good for him."

"He's been a trooper through this whole ordeal. I pray for patience for him at 16. Patience is not a 16 year old's best virtue!"

Dealing with serious family health issues can take a lot out of a person. What roll did CoG play in helping Diane with this crisis? "I will say one thing...if Cross of Glory wasn't in my life, I wouldn't have been able to get through this. The warmth, compassion, and prayers from the beautiful people of our church have made me and my family so thankful."

"Finding my faith at Cross Of Glory and turning everything over to my best friend (JESUS) and praying with him. I am so thankful that Cross Of Glory is in my life. With Jesus and Cross of Glory my life is complete. AMEN!!"

Do you have an interesting life story to share with the Cross of Glory readers? If so please contact any church staff or the editors Mike and Lisa O'Malley.

What a Former Child TV Star Does Today

From time to time (hint: when there is nothing else to write about...) this space will launch itself into a little ditty about a movie...usually with a Christian beat. This is one of those times. Let's delve into a little film called "Fireproof", which came out back in 2008.

Caleb Holt (Kirk Cameron, i.e., former child TV star) is a firefighter in Albany, Georgia who holds the motto, "Never leave your partner behind". However, his relationship with his wife Catherine (Erin Bethea) is suffering to a point that she wants a divorce.

Caleb and Catherine each fault the other for the disintegration of their relationship. Among Catherine's complaints are Caleb's addiction to internet pornography and a large sum of money (\$24,000) he has saved up for a boat that he intends to buy, ignoring the fact that Catherine's disabled mother is in need of hospital equipment that she cannot afford, and which their insurance doesn't cover. When Caleb tells his father, John, about the impending divorce, John challenges Caleb to commit to a 40-day test which he calls the "Love Dare", and Caleb agrees. Initially Catherine doubts Caleb's sincerity in his attempts to win her back, due to his half-hearted attempts at completing the Love Dare, but Caleb continues with encouragement from his father and his close friend Michael (Ken Bevel), who also encourages him to become a born-again Christian.

In the meantime, at the hospital where she works, Catherine begins flirting with Dr. Gavin Keller (Perry Revell), who doesn't know she's married, as she stopped wearing her [wedding ring](#). She informs him of her mother's medical situation. Around this time, Caleb injures his arm rescuing a girl from a house fire and is brought to Catherine's hospital, where a nurse inadvertently says in front of Dr. Keller that Caleb is Catherine's husband.

As he continues his 40-day challenge, Caleb begins doing more household chores and running more errands for Catherine, and leaves her [roses](#). Caleb even smashes his [computer](#) to pieces with a baseball bat in order to remove the [temptation](#) of viewing internet por-

nography. Nevertheless, Catherine, who is led by some colleagues to think that Caleb did all these things with an ulterior motive in mind, is still intent on divorce.



When she later learns that the equipment needed for her mother's medical care has been paid for in full, she arranges a lunch date with Dr. Keller, thinking he was the benefactor. Caleb informs Keller that he won't let him have Catherine without a fight; Keller breaks off his relationship with Catherine

and reveals that he is actually married.

Caleb later finds Catherine at home sick, and decides to take care of her. At this point she asks Caleb why he has changed his behavior, and he mentions "The Love Dare." Caleb then fully apologizes to Catherine for his past selfishness.

Days later, Catherine learns that of the \$24,300 cost of her mother's medical equipment, Dr. Keller gave only \$300 and Caleb gave \$24,000, exhausting his boat savings. At this point she becomes convinced that his desire to change was sincere, and decides to forgive him. The couple then renews their wedding vows in an outdoor ceremony, this time as a covenant with God. According to the film's novelization, Catherine's mother participates in a special [Wheel of Fortune](#) episode for people with disabilities, winning Caleb a boat.

Reception

Fireproof has received generally mixed reviews from critics. Rotten Tomatoes gave it rating of 40%, based on 20 reviews. The site's "Top Critics" gave it a 50% rating. Metacritic gave it a metascore of 28%, based on 6 reviews. Ed Gonzalez of LA Weekly said, "Fireproof stops becoming relatable to us all and only to the already, or easily, indoctrinated." Frank Scheck of The Hollywood Reporter said, "While hardly sophisticated in its approach and certainly not polished in its technical elements, the film does get its heartfelt message across with undeniable sincerity."

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Scanlon.....	4/02	Sidney Morin.....	4/14
Jenny Festin.....	4/03	Scott Schroeder.....	4/14
Dawn Pechukas.....	4/04	Tyler Sotzen.....	4/14
Dwight Bejlovec.....	4/06	Melissa Murtaugh.....	4/17
Ann Calabrese.....	4/06	Maggi Leise.....	4/20
Julie Malin.....	4/09	Amanda Fisher.....	4/22
Jayden Delgado.....	4/10	Mike Kruse.....	4/23
Debbie Fisher.....	4/10	Sarah Lamphere.....	4/26
Joe Pfeiffer.....	4/11	Haleigh Draper.....	4/27
		Jeff Warner.....	4/29