



14719 W 163<sup>rd</sup> Street Homer Glen, IL 60491

C e n t r a l	163 <sup>rd</sup> St.
	Ministry

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

### **CROP Walk**

On Sunday, October 2...our 6th year! To participate, get a registration form from the church or Cheryl Nabors and ask your family and friends to sponsor you. Registration is at 1:30 pm and step off is at 2 pm. Contact Cheryl Nabors with any questions. Located at Lockport Dellwood Park.

### **Annual Trick or Treat Tailgate**

Come one, come all! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors! Come see the decorated car trunks filled with goodies! Come play the ghoulishly great games! Dress in your favorite costume and join our costume contest! Try terrifying treats too! Event is Sunday, October 23 at CoG, 1:30 to 3:00 pm!

Trick or Treat Tailgating will be from 1:30 – 2:00 Then following that is parade of costumes, best Trunk Awards, crafts, games, and cookies. If you would like to decorate your vehicle and pass out treats or help with the event please look for the sign up sheet outside the preschool or contact the office.

### **Worship Volunteer Recruitment Day**

Each week's worship services would not be possible without the aid of volunteers from our congregation. For those of you who have wondered what it's like to be a part of the worship team, here's your chance. Sunday, October 16 is Worship Volunteer Recruitment Day. Representatives from the various worship areas will be available after each service to tell you what they do, answer any questions you have and, hopefully, get you signed up to participate as a volunteer. Where do you think you fit in?

### **Blood Drive**

October 25 from 2-6 pm. Call to set up an appointment time with Laura in the church office.

**More information at [Crossofglory.com](http://Crossofglory.com)**

Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 65  
Lockport, Illinois  
60441  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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cross of glory

THE GOOD

NEWS tree



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



October 2011

### **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](mailto: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*

## Running For Dear Life

*Pastor PJ Malin*



I'm not sure if it was a moment of temporary insanity or a prompting by God, but I signed up to do something I never in a million years thought I would ever do. I signed up to run the Chicago Marathon. I will be running 26.2 miles on October 9 in downtown Chicago.

I was just kidding about the insanity piece (I think). I actually had a very good reason for taking on this challenge. Our church is partners with a mission in San Miguel, Mexico called *Casa de los Angeles* (House of the Angels). Casa provides a free daycare with food and medical services to children and families in need. Before Casa arrived on the scene, many of these kids (ages three down to three months) were left at home alone in nothing more than a metal shack with dirt floors while their parents went to work. The parents did not have much of an option. They have to work to support their families and they do not have access to the kind of daycare we are privileged to in our country. Casa provides these children with a safe, loving environment to grow up and discover their God given potential.

I had the opportunity to travel to Mexico two times to volunteer with *Casa de los Angeles*. Let me tell you, those little kids are angels. It brought my heart such joy knowing that these children were getting a real chance at life.

That's why I am running the marathon. I am taking on this once in a lifetime challenge to help these children have a chance at the one life they've been given. All the money I raise will go to support *Casa de los Angeles*.

I know some of you may be thinking, "There's no way this pastor dude is really going to run 26.2 miles." I thought the same thing when I signed up. But I have been taking my training very seriously. Step by step, I have been working my way up towards the mammoth mileage. Just this past Friday, I ran 20 miles! This is the farthest run for training. After the run I truly believe I will be able to run the 26.2 miles.

But I want my efforts to go farther than 26.2 miles. I want to go 1934.63 miles and touch the lives of all the angels in San Miguel, Mexico. For this I need your help. With your donation, we will be able to give parents and children a chance at life that would not be possible without our help. No donation is too small or big. Every little bit helps.

There are two ways you can donate. You can donate online at this secure site <http://marathon.casadelosangeles.org/runners/pastor>. You can also donate by check. Make the check out to "Casa de los Angeles" and send it to the following address.

Team Casa, Pastor PJ Malin  
1202 Shoals Drive, Lockport, IL 60441

Thanks for helping me go the distance! Know that if you need a chance at life (or another chance), Cross of Glory is Your Welcome Place. God bless you and I hope to see you soon!

It's probably a rare church newsletter that runs photos like you see on these two pages...not exactly what most would call...'churchy'. But, when you have two editors who love everything Halloween, plus another member who owns and runs his own haunted house...well, this was inevitable. The editors can go unnamed here...the owner is, of course, Paul Niemeyer. The haunted house... The Abyss.

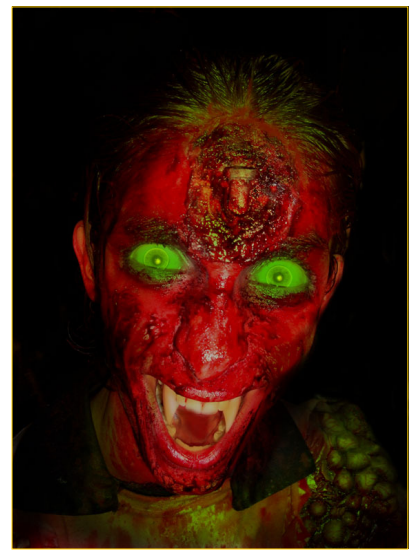
For those who have never heard of The Abyss, it's a very special event that has been up and running for five years now. "The first ABYSS show was in 2006 in downtown Joliet," Paul explained. "In the summer of 2006, I was made aware of a haunt called 'Ghouls by the Pool' that was for sale. It had been put on by Cheney-Monge School to raise money, but had been in a semi trailer for about four years. We bought it sight unseen, and have since over quadrupled the size of the show!"

And why so special? "All of our cast members are volunteers who come for the fun of it, because scaring people is GREAT FUN!!! They are mostly *high school and college kids*, but we have quite a few adults who come and help out, or were there because their kids were involved, who got hooked on scaring, and now are as excited about doing it as the kids!"

When kids ARE the show, our next question was an obvious one. 'Are employees allowed to work every year or do you have to hire from scratch?'

"We don't turn anyone away (unless they do not pass the screening). Year after year, we have people showing up on our doorstep who had been with us before and want another 'fix'! Their lives take them different places, but they somehow always end up back at Abyss. Sometimes, that takes years to happen, but they always find their way back. In a lot of ways, we are a sort of halfway house for some of them, but, as I understand it from my conversations with most other haunt owners, EVERY haunt is a halfway house of sorts..."

On a scale of 1 to 10 how scary is the Abyss when compared to other local haunted houses? "Ours is an



11!! [editor's note: its one more!] We really do try to go all out to give the customer the most 'scream' for their money! That's what they came for!"

"We tend to be a little different than other haunts in that we use more psychological scares, playing on basic fears (the dark, claustrophobia, etc.) in between the rooms. I try to think, 'What scares me?' and then make that my focus. And, Abyss really IS haunted, which adds a little something just knowing that!"

This year provided Paul and his haunted house a little extra bonus. A former employee spoke up about the Abyss to an interesting audience... which led to something very cool. This year, or rather next year, the Abyss will be part of a cable TV reality show!

"One of my former make-up artists was attending a prestigious make-up school in Los Angeles, and ran into one of the producers of *My Ghost Story* on A&E/Biography Channel," Paul explained. "They were doing a series of shows on haunted or fall attractions that REALLY WERE HAUNTED. She told the producer, 'Have I got the haunt for you...!' and we got in contact with each other."



"After seeing the photos we had taken with orbs flying through them, clouds of ectoplasm, and the occasional unexplained shadow, they

were convinced we were the real deal. They flew me out to LA at the end of July to film my interviews, and then came out to Abyss to film a week later. This episode will air next year in the show's third season."

When Paul isn't trying to scare his fellow human beings into jelly-like submission, he still follows a creative path in life. "I am an artist-illustrator-haunted house owner-entrepreneur," he said. Quite a diverse resume!

That aside, Paul is also a dedicated family man. He has been married to wife, Terri, since 1999. The couple adopted their son, Khalin, from Kazakhstan (a central Asian country for geography-challenged folk) in 2002. Terri also had two children, Scott and Anna, from a previous marriage. Terri is currently a dialysis nurse at Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet. Scott designs and builds custom trucks, Anna is a culinary arts student at



Joliet Junior College, and Khalin is in the 5th grade at Hadley Middle School in Homer Glen.

Paul and Terri have been CoG members for just over a decade. "Terri and I, and our family, joined in 2001," Paul remembered. "We were going to come to the opening service on September 9, 2001, but didn't make it that day because my Dad died. His wake was on 9/11... really not a good week. We came the next Sunday, loved the people and the music ministry, and now you can't get rid of us!"

Volunteering has come easy for Paul and Terri over the years. "What have you got? Is there anything we HAVEN'T volunteered for?!? We've done almost everything! I play drums in the band, have taught junior high classes, given about a dozen sermons... both of us have done terms on council, chaperoned Youth Group trips, and gone to Casa in Mexico (Anna has gone, too!). Terri does Kids Club, Vacation Bible School, and I can't remember all of things we've done with COG!"

"Not to mention the occasional art projects related to COG events. Whew! And, it's all been a fantastic ride that has no end in sight...! We love COG and our COG family!! We have met most of our current friends be-



cause of COG! AMEN!"  
Back down to earth, Paul's beginnings seem to have played a part in his current haunting profession. "I grew up in Grant Park, Illinois, on a dairy farm. I 'haunted' our barn as a kid for my friends, and got my start 'scaring' there. Terri grew up right here in Homer Glen."

**ABYSS operating hours:**  
**October 1, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, & 30**  
**at Dollinger's Pumpkin Farm,**  
**7502 E. Hansel Rd., Channahon, IL**  
**Fridays and Saturdays: 7 - 11 pm**  
**Thursdays and Sundays: 7 - 10 pm**  
**Saturday and Sunday — LOW SCARE,**  
**LIGHTS ON VERSION that is family friendly: 12 pm- 6 pm**

TO SEE PAUL'S ART PORTFOLIOS, GO TO...  
<http://www.directoryofillustration.com/ArtistPortfolioThumbs.aspx?AID=3727> and <http://www.ifreelance.com/provider/detail.aspx?providerid=36353>

## HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!!

## LITANY FOR HALLOWEEN

From ghoulies and ghosties,  
 Long-leggety beasties,  
 And things that go bump in the night,  
 Good Lord, deliver us.

-Anonymous



**HAPPY BIRTHDAYS**

<b>Sharyn Purtell ... 10/03</b>	<b>Bonnie Colvin..... 10/17</b>
<b>Paige Ignasiak... 10/04</b>	<b>Chrissy Murphy.. 10/17</b>
<b>TJ Ignasiak..... 10/04</b>	<b>Katherine Oles... 10/17</b>
<b>Pam Schultz..... 10/06</b>	<b>Vanessa Waller .. 10/17</b>
<b>Dan Marszalek... 10/07</b>	<b>Terri Niemeyer... 10/19</b>
<b>Caitlin Atkinson . 10/08</b>	<b>Zachary Sutton .. 10/19</b>
<b>Frank Granacki .. 10/09</b>	<b>Chris Mack ..... 10/20</b>
<b>Roger Lily ..... 10/09</b>	<b>Amanda Parker .. 10/25</b>
<b>Valerie Plotke .... 10/09</b>	<b>Jacob Capperino 10/27</b>
<b>Eddie Rafacz ..... 10/10</b>	<b>Pr PJ Malin..... 10/27</b>
<b>Al Stasiak..... 10/10</b>	<b>Ryan Maurella.... 10/28</b>
<b>Kelly Mizera ..... 10/13</b>	<b>Dylan Schaefer .. 10/28</b>
<b>Sue Gervase ..... 10/15</b>	<b>Anthony Sutton 10/28</b>
<b>Nicole Morin ..... 10/16</b>	<b>Evelyn Ingram .. 10/29</b>