

CALENDAR

- May 1 - Pastor - Silent Retreat
- May 2 - Pastor - office hours 1-4 p.m. Blanco Visitation
- May 5 - Pastor—Lead devotions at Bluebird Ranch-Retreat Center, Harwood.
- May 6 - Worship 9:00 a.m.
- May 6 - Council meeting
- May 8 - Pastor - Deanery at Bethany in Fredericksburg
- May 9 - Pastor - office hours 1-4 p.m.
- May 10 - Pastor - Blanco Visitation 2-5 p.m.
- May 10 - Prayers & Squares 6-9 p.m.
- May 11 - Lunches of Love at GEM of the Hills
- May 13 - Worship 9:00 a.m.
- May 16 - Pastor office hours 1-4 p.m.
- May 18, 19 20 - Pastor - Synod Assembly in Corpus Christi
- May 20 - Worship lead by lay committee 9:00 a.m.
- May 23 - Pastor office hours 1-4 p.m. Blanco Visitation
- May 26 - Pastor - Cross Trails Ministry Volunteer and Donor Picnic at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville as Hill Country Conference Representative to the Cross Trails Board of Directors
- May 27 - Worship 9:00 a.m.
- May 27 - Dedication of NHL Garden Rainwater Collection System after worship.
- May 27 - Pastor - conduct Sunday Devotions at Deer Creek Nursing Center with Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Wimberley
- May - 30 - Pastor office hours 1-4 p.m.

9th & Elm Street
830-833-4151
www.newhopeblanco.org
newhopelutheranblanco@yahoo.com

New Hope Lutheran

9th & Elm 830-833-4151

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Pastor Rev. M. L. "Skip" Brasher

Worship Times

8:15 - 8:45 Food & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Worship

VOLUME III—ISSUE 5

MAY 2012

New Members

by Rev. M. L. "Skip" Brasher



Melanie Honeysett (Tanja's daughter, home on leave from Air Force), Tanja Tomlinson, Pastor Skip and Lynn Evich

Let us all celebrate our friends Tanja Tomlinson and Lynn Evich, who became official members of New Hope Lutheran Chapel at our worship service on Sunday, April 15th. We are ever grateful for the wonderful talents these ladies bring to God in our Congregation!

We "welcome you home", and will ever keep you and your families in our prayers!

Reminders:

Council meeting this month will be the first Sunday in May - May 6th due to Mother's day being on our regular meeting date.

Prayers & Squares—Thursday May 10th 6-9 p.m.

Lunches of Love—Friday May 11th 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - GEM of the Hills

Refreshment Corner

Each Sunday Morning one of several talented cooks provides a variety of delicious breakfast treats served between 8:15 and 8:45. Everyone is welcome to come early and enjoy the food and fellowship.

Schedule

- May 6 - Tomlinson
- May 13 - Knoll
- May 20 - Jonas
- May 27 - Marshall
- June 3 - Foegelle

Birthday's/ Anniversaries

Birthday's

- May 5 - Alan Cooper
- May 11 - Susan Marshall
- May 12 - Lynn Evich
- May 16 - Shelby Foegelle

Anniversaries

- May 22 - Judy & Bobby Brewer
- May 29 - Omar & Susan Villarreal

Pastor's Commentary

Should anyone wish to donate a cross to our Congregation to be displayed on our Sanctuary wall in memory of a loved one, please contact Pastor "Skip." These new crosses will be dedicated and blessed on Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 13th.

As a member of the Board at Cross Trails Ministry I am passing along several inserts on the opportunities with Cross Trails Ministry. Please note they are the last few pages of this newsletter.

Lunches of Love at GEM of the Hills

Lunches of Love celebrated Easter at the Gem of the Hills April 13th hosted by New Hope Lutheran. A wonderful lunch was served - Ham and pasta salad prepared by Tanja Tomlinson with hard boiled eggs furnished by Cheryl Eckenrode. A special thanks to Connie Granberg for providing the transportation and home delivery to those participants that could not come to the GEM. Cyndy Hounsell and Connie Granberg helped serve. Alan Cooper provided music.

In the month of June, Tanja has planned a luncheon of Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans and salad.

New Hope Lutheran, once a month, sponsors the Lunches of Love at the GEM of the Hills to those that want to come along with delivering the meals to the homes of those that cannot come. Transportation is provided by a New Hope Lutheran member or a CARTS vehicle is hired (at no cost to the participants) to deliver the people to the GEM. Upon arrival if they choose to do so they can participate in an exercise class conducted by Connie Barron before lunch. If you know of anyone that would like to participate please contact New Hope Lutheran. newhopelutheranblanco@yahoo.com



picture taken April 22nd

Garden News by Rebecca Greathouse

We were able to get our Spring garden planted on the last day of March, but have not had a drop of rain since!! Helen, Ruth, Nelson, and Becky were there to get everything in the ground...

We installed the following plants that were donated by members:

- heirloom tomatoes
- cucumbers
- eggplant
- peppers

We also planted beans, squash, Swiss chard, some flowers and herbs by seed. But since the rains did not come and the soakers perhaps didn't reach all the seed, I'm not sure we will have flowers and herbs...

Our 3,000 gallon tank is empty, and that is something of a mystery, as I do not think we have used anywhere near that much water to date on the garden...I talked to Pam Meier; she has not used half of the water from her tank yet, I don't think it is a large as ours... anyway I made the decision to use a bit of city water in order to hydrate the plants well, then I brought a truckload of compost and mulched everything with that. So this should keep down the frequency of the watering. But let's ask for rain, please Lord!

FYI: I left the soaker hoses under the mulch, with the attachment exposed. Also I separated the two hoses so that we can water one section and then the second. (Quicker and better pressure) One of the hoses is missing the closure cap, as we must have put it somewhere when we connected them, but I don't know where it is. So heads up to whomever decides to water...look to make sure the hose has an end cap! (I removed it from the first hose and put on the second to water....I'll look around and see if I can find a spare cap.)

All in all its been a beautiful Spring...but we already need rain!

Thanks to all who helped with garden.

Helen has the master list in case you eat a delicious tomato and don't know what kind it is...

Perhaps on Sunday we can develop a schedule for watering, harvesting, and transporting to Good Samaritan.

ALL FAITHS MEDICAL MINISTRY

Medical Equipment Ministry:

During the more than 20 years that All Faiths Chapel occupied the location where New Hope meets today, its members created and maintained a ministry that provides equipment to local residents who have special medical needs. The storage building on the property houses wheelchairs, walkers, powered hospital beds, braces of many different types, crutches, breathing assistance equipment, and assorted other items. These are available on a no-charge basis with a checkout list. New Hope has committed itself to continuing this ministry in conjunction with the people who founded All Faiths. If you have a need, call either **Connie Granberg: 833-4423**, or **Alan Cooper: 833-4301**.



Two Bible Study Opportunities

Stacey's Men's Bible Study will meet every Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Sunday School Room during Lent.

Stacey's Regular Bible Study will continue to meet every Thursday evening 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

2012 Synod Assembly

“Washed and Renewed”

Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly will be held in Corpus Christ this year at the American Bank Center. - May 19th & 20th

Offering will benefit Southwestern Texas Synod Evangelical Mission Endowment Fund

Make your checks payable to New Hope Lutheran and Pastor Skip will take with her one lump sum check when she attends Synod Assembly in May.

Sunday School

Students will begin in the sanctuary for the start of our worship service then leave for the Sunday School room. After the lesson the students will return to the Sanctuary for Holy Communion with their parents.

May 6 - Jesus is the true vine.
May 13 - Jesus' new commandment
May 20 - Jesus prays
May 27 - Jesus' promise

NEW CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS

We have a new email address in addition to Pastor Skip's personal email. (skbr@austin.rr.com)

New Hope Lutheran can be reached at:
newhopelutheranblanco@yahoo.com



Prayers & Squares



April Prayers and Squares met with Pastor Skip, Martha Kirchoff, Lynn Evich attending. They finished a couple of quilts. Lynn Evich was a recipient of one of the quilts. That quilt was dedicated the following Sunday. Please come and join the next meeting on the second Thursday of May (May 10th)

The doors open at 6:00 p.m. with some participants coming later. The group quilts until a project is finished or until 9:00 p.m. whichever comes first.

Pastor Skip, Tanja Tomlinson and Lynn Evich. This is the quilt dedicated and given to Lynn on April 15th.





Pastor's Ponderings



As we now move through the Easter Season of the Church Year, we are called to re-visit the miracle of the Resurrection in both our daily prayer, and in our quiet family or private devotional time. The barrage of responsibilities and activities that present themselves to us in spring, when Holy Week and Easter fall late in the calendar year, as is the case in 2012, can easily draw our attention away from the significance of this ultimate mystery of promise and fulfillment for all Christian believers.

While we are surrounded by the delightful sights of new growth and sounds of the emerging spring, we oftentimes don't make the time to allow ourselves to meditate on the New Life that we have been given through the power of Christ's Resurrection. I don't believe that this neglect is an intentional action for any of us. We are fully aware in the depths of our personal and communal faith experiences, but the demands of our "over-stuffed" secular calendar, exhausts us. We are prone to give God the "left-over time", rather than making "God-time" a priority in our daily lives.

Whether we choose to devote half of our lunch hour, or dare to get up thirty minutes earlier than usual, we can find *intentional* time to spend with God. Granted, it isn't always easy to carve-out the space in our hectic, responsibility-driven lives, but we CAN find the time. If we only take a moment to remind ourselves of God's greatest Gift to us in Christ Jesus, surely our gratitude will motivate us to seek-out and find the time.

When we allow ourselves to recall the traumatic experiences Christ endured during the time that encompasses "Holy Week"; when we enter into the feelings of awe and joy that engulf us in the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, we are ushered into a renewed, complete awareness of why God calls us into prayerful contemplation.

As you reflect on this great Miracle, what are the first things that jump into your mind? Are they facets of the complete story that have always been significant to you, or are you perhaps discovering something "new" that God has planted in your consciousness?

Maybe your attention keeps being drawn again and again to a part of the story that became imbedded in your being when you were just a child, learning about Jesus for the first time. Perhaps it's a passage in the Passion that dredges up painful memories of a time in your life when *you* were mistreated, or unjustly accused. Does the confusion and fear that the disciples experience when they discover Jesus' body is no longer in the tomb, trigger a visceral response within you? What is it exactly that "grabs YOU?" Whatever it is, it is the perfect place for you to begin your meditation!

For me personally, my mind is *always* drawn first to a scene in a black and white movie that was shown to my entire elementary school during an assembly on the Wednesday of Holy Week back in 1954. {As a seven year old, whose family didn't own a television set, and who had never been taken to a movie, you might imagine the impact of watching a detailed film about the Passion and crucifixion of Christ, while sitting in complete silence in the school cafeteria....}

To this day, I can visualize the torn and broken body of Jesus, covered in blood and dust turned into trickles of mud, hanging on the cross, bleeding from His side, while torrents of rain pelted against him, and "strikin' lightning" flashed behind Him, amid loud, echoing claps of thunder. Yet, equally embedded in my mind are the haunting words Jesus spoke before taking His final breaths. With eyes raised heavenward, He pleaded with God: "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!*"

Now that you know where I always begin, I ask you to intentionally seek to find where the Holy Spirit directs you, as you begin to privately reflect on the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Our Savior. "Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

May God bless you and all those you love, always!

In Christ's love,

Pastor "Skip"

PRAYER LIST

We ask that you please keep these people
in your daily prayers

Doris & Roy Phipps	Al Turner
Ken & Betty Lightle	Peggy Welch
Betty Brice & Family	Little Jack
Darvin Altenhoff	Irmine Smith
Francis Heard	Pete & Family
Laura Zeig & Family	Bea Busch
Marty	Renee & Family
Loretta Martin	Sandy Foster
Deanna & Eric	Carolyn Boydston
Lynn Evich	Lois Sparkman
Laney K.	Benet & Stuart Snider
Doc Moore	Patsy, Mark & David
Kay Schmidt	Melanie & Sean Honeysett
Cara & Joe Bauchmeier	Linda & Milton Wingfield
Merle & Gina Franke	Lunches of Love folks
Dominique Evich	

In Memory
Jim Rodrique & Family
Family of Dot Miller - Pastor Lemae Higgs mother

All Armed Service Personnel
Joe Bachmeier - serving overseas
Melanie Tomlinson - serving stateside

Garage Sale

St. Michaels Episcopal Church invited us to join them in their annual "Yard Sale" on April 21st. They were gracious to let us have a large area to set up our tables and all proceeds from our tables were ours to keep.

Tanja Tomlinson coordinated our portion of the sale and distributed flyers throughout the town advertising the event. In addition to the "Yard Sale" we also sold baked goods.

Big thank you to everyone that donated items, baked, priced the items, furnished tables, worked at the yard sale and those of you that came to the sale and spent your money.

The items that were left over will be sorted and some things given to Good Samaritan, the rest will be stored and sold at our next yard sale... possibly in mid October.

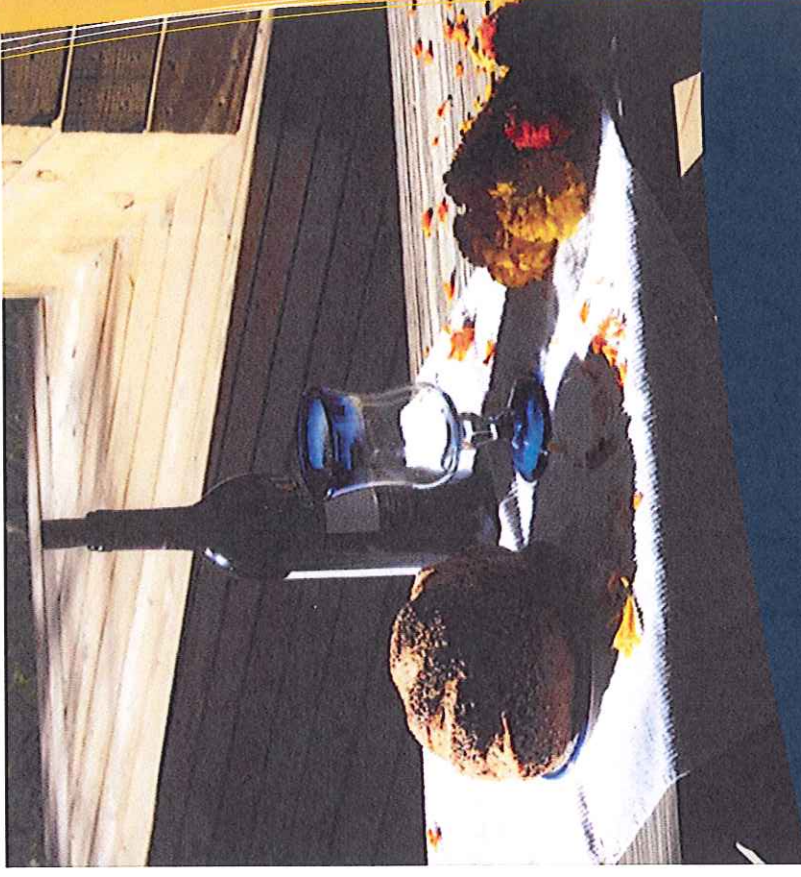
Again, THANKS to everyone that contributed in any way. We didn't list your names because some of you worked behind the scenes and we didn't want to leave anyone off the list of helpers.

Volunteer Leadership


Cross Trails Ministry needs the time and talents of volunteers in order to keep Lutheran Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch Camp operating to their full potential. If you have questions about volunteering with Cross Trails, please contact our main office at (830) 257-6340.



**Cross Trails
Ministry**
391 Upper Turtle Creek Road
Kerrville, Texas 78028
(830) 257-6340



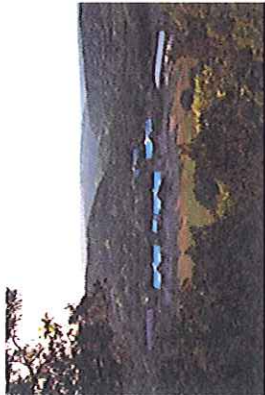
Volunteer with


**Cross
Trails
Ministry**

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Cross Trails Ministry needs the time and talents of volunteers in order to keep Lutheran Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch Camp operating to their full potential. Cross Trails has limited full time staff positions, the rest of this ministry is completed by dedicated summer staff, part time help and many, many volunteers. If you have questions about volunteering with

Cross Trails, please contact our main office at (830) 257-6340.



Volunteer Retreats & Work Weekends

Volunteer Retreats happen year round at Lutheran Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch Camp. If you can commit to a minimum of 4 hours each day (or 8 hours of work time over the course of the

weekend), we invite you to stay and eat with us at no cost. Skilled and unskilled groups are welcome, and funding is often available through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Once a year we have pre-scheduled work weekends where individuals or groups can volunteer at Chrysalis and Ebert. These weekends happen before summer and are crucial to preparing the sites for summer camp. There is no fee for volunteers on these weekends.

To set up a Work Retreat or to participate in a Work Weekend, please contact our office at (830) 257-6340 or info@crosstrails.org. A staff member from Cross Trails will contact you about your request and finalize your retreat with you.

Home Congregation Projects

Several projects can be completed at your home congregation or organization's home office. Our staff can match you with an appropriate project, as well as help to coordinate materials and pick up of the project.



Long Term & Summer Volunteers

Volunteers are welcome to give of their time and talents year round with Cross Trails Ministry. Volunteers can help us to complete major projects or several smaller ones. Volunteers are asked to give a set

amount of time in return for housing or RV hook-ups. Because of our responsibility to our guests year round, summer and long-term volunteers are asked to complete a volunteer application with permission to conduct a criminal background check. Projects will be matched to your personal skills and abilities. Please note that parents of campers may not volunteer the same week their child attends summer camp.



Serve as a Trail Guide



The goal of the Trail Guide Program is to build relationships between congregations and Cross Trails Ministry. Trail Guides do this by raising awareness and communicate to their home congregation the unique opportunities that Cross Trails

provides. They also seek support for Cross Trails Ministry through prayer, invitation, giving, volunteering, and partnerships. We want every congregation to have Trail

Guides that are passionately

excited about sharing how Cross Trails transforms the lives of others. Contact your congregation to see if you can serve in this capacity. For more information or details, please contact Pastor Jennifer Gold at Jennifer@crosstrails.org.



FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP WITH CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY

Cross Trails Ministry provides summer camp, retreats and expeditions for youth, adults and families, year round. Gifts from individuals, families, congregations, organizations, alumni, and friends enhance the quality and build on the strong standard of programs that Cross Trails Ministry has established. These gifts help us reach our goals of providing unique settings and experiences to participants year round.

Fees charged to youth and adults for programs at Cross Trails Ministry do not cover all of the costs. In fact, program fees fund approximately 70% of the ministry of Cross Trails. We intentionally keep the fees low to accommodate all campers and congregations who wish to participate, regardless of economic circumstances. Therefore, the remaining money for operating costs must be raised each year through outside sources.

We have a number of ways for individuals, families, and congregations to be financial leaders with Cross Trails Ministry. Below you will find a few highlights of ways you can become involved. Please see our web-site for more details in each area.

- **Trail Blazer Giving Club**— When you give more than \$300 annually to Cross Trails Ministry you become a “Trail Blazer.” Each level of the Trail Blazer Giving Club is acknowledged through discounts and special “behind the scenes” information!
Live Oak Circle (\$5,000 or more annually)
Mesquite Circle (\$1,000 or more annually)
Purple Sage Circle (\$500 or more annually)
Bluebonnet Circle (\$300 or more annually)

- **Congregational Giving Club**— Congregational giving makes up a substantial part of our budget. We strongly encourage our congregations to be part of the congregational giving club. To encourage participation, we offer discounts for various levels of giving.

Partners in Ministry (\$1,000 or more annually)
Advocate Congregations (\$5,000 or more annually)
Supporting Congregations (\$3,000 or more annually)
Contributing Congregations (\$1,000 or more annually)

- **Become a Friend of Cross Trails**— Gifts that are less than the minimum to become part of the Trail Blazer or Congregational Giving Clubs are still needed. We deeply appreciate these gifts because together with other “friends,” these gifts make a meaningful contribution to our budget.

- **Pave the Way**- You can now honor a special person or event by purchasing a brick to be added to the new, rustic brick pathways at Camp Chrysalis. For \$100 or \$75 you can purchase a rectangular brick and have it engraved with a message meaningful to you.

- **Thrivent Choice Dollars**- If you have a qualified investment or insurance with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, you earn Choice Dollars. These Choice Dollars do not come out of your investment but are from Thrivent. To designate where you would like your Choice Dollars to be dedicated to, please call your local Thrivent representative, or go on-line to www.Thrivent.com.

- **Lutheran Fall Festival**- The Lutheran Fall Festival is an annual event that provides funds to Cross Trails Ministry for special projects. Highlights include youth and adult chili cook-offs, a silent and live auction, a yummy food, a craft fair, and activities for children. In order for this event to be successful, it is important that we have participation from our supporting congregations and individuals. Mark your calendar now for Saturday, September 15, 2012 and join the fun in Fredericksburg at the “Market Platz.”

- **Endowment Fund**- As we look to the future we are excited about all that is ahead as God continues to lead us in new directions. But we’ve also learned that it is our responsibility to be careful stewards of our gifts and resources. To help ensure growth and sustainability for this ministry we have established the Cross Trails Ministry Endowment Fund. When you send your gift marked “Endowment Fund,” it will join the funds of others to build Cross Trails Ministry. The Fund will provide monetary support for beyond the budget expenses including new equipment and programs .

For more information,
please contact

Dianna Hopkins,

Director of Development
at (210) 216-8277 or

Dianna@crosstrails.org.

You can also donate online at

www.crosstrails.org.



Cross Trails Ministry

Invites You
To Retreat!

Year Round Retreats

at Lutheran Camp
Chrysalis & Ebert
Ranch Camp



Even Jesus, the Savior of the world, needed to retreat, to step away from the demands of life to spend time reconnecting in his relationship with God. Whether it was into the wilderness, to the mountains to pray, or to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus spent time in the cathedral of God's creation to be renewed in his sense of self and purpose.

So we, as Jesus's followers, need to do the same. Cross Trails Ministry provides retreats for people of all ages to escape the distractions and demands of life and to spend time encountering God in unique settings that cannot be duplicated in a church building. It is through opportunities like these that, when the distractions of life are removed and we have nothing to cling to but God, we give God the "space" in our lives to move and fill up the voids that we so often fill up with the other "stuff" of life. Cross Trails Ministry offers not just an experience but an encounter with the Holy that cannot be contained.

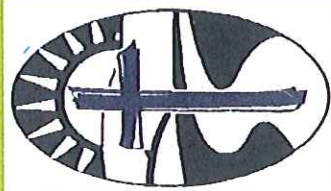
Make use of the ministry experiences that Cross Trails provides and it will enrich your relationship with God and will give

God the opportunity to transform your life!

Need a Retreat?

There are many Retreat opportunities year round through Cross Trails Ministry...

- † **Youth Retreats!** For youth of all ages, we offer opportunities for youth to connect with friends, with youth from the broader church, and with God through fun -filled hiking, climbing, canoeing, worshipping, and more!
- † **Family Camp/Retreats!** Cross Trails Ministry offers several retreats and camp experiences in which the entire family can come together to reconnect with God and one another.
- † **Adult Retreats!** Adults need time away to rest, relax and rejuvenate themselves and their faith! Cross Trails Ministry offers retreats for adults of all ages to encounter new experiences in beautiful settings.
- † **Volunteer Work Retreats!** Many improvements that happen at camp, happen because of volunteers! Bring a group and we will provide a project that fits your group's skills and abilities. Here's a way to serve God and be served by God!
- † **Plan Your Own Retreat!** Gather your faith church, family or friends and plan your own retreat! Simply check out available dates with us and let us help you with planning. Then, show up to an amazing retreat that we host for you and your group!



Cross Trails Ministry

391 Upper Turtle Creek Road
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(830) 257-6340

www.crosstrails.org

info@crosstrails.org