

Year 6  
Issue 16

# The CrossRoads Connection



A Youth and Young Adult Ministry of  
St. Andrew United Methodist Church

## *It's Almost That Time Again!*

Even though the sultry, steamy days of late summer are still very much upon us, something is about to change.

**(SPECIAL ALERT: if you are a student or teacher NOT looking forward to the new school year - do not read further!)**

Yes, as bad as I hate to bring this up to some of us; back-to-school time is upon us.

All the signs are here. Fall sports are going at it hard and heavy on most of our high school and college campuses, most with two-a-day practices (groan) and excited conversations about who made which team (yeah), and the marching band is sweating to the oldies again – in formation! Now, how cool is that?

We have handed out back packs to our students who graduated

chipping in

from high school in the spring – celebrating their next important steps with them.

I'm hearing conversations from our parents about getting in last-minute vacations, the annual shopping trips for new school clothes and which classes their children will be taking this year and which teachers they're looking forward to having and which ones they might not be so excited about getting. One list is longer than the other. Care to guess which is which?

Yep. All the signs are upon us. Ready or not: here comes another school year!

I'm teasing a bit, of course. All of our students and teachers aren't dreading the start of school; some are pretty excited about it. And, why not? It's a chance to catch back up with friends that you

only really see at school, a wide variety of school sports to cheer for and all those extra-curricular activities that make school so much fun like choir, plays, clubs and much, much more. Heck, some students have even been known to be excited about learning a thing or two!

We've had a pretty full summer here at the CrossRoads. We've had a wide variety of things happening like mission trips, camp, water-battles, pool parties, cook-outs and other fun stuff that usually only happen during the summer. We've even picked up a few new leaders and students during the summer – welcome to all.



Pat Sleeth is pastor to the CrossRoads community.

But, if my conversations with our leaders are any indication, things aren't going to slow down much in the fall. I'm hearing

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Our MISSION: We seek to encourage youth and young adults to develop a genuine faith in Jesus Christ, encourage them to grow as lifelong disciples, and to equip them to minister to others for the sake of the world.

## Pastor Pat's Chipping In

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about more cookouts, camping trips, tubing, concerts and much more and besides all the fun these things will be, each of these things give us an opportunity to welcome even more students into our fellowship.

For this school year to be the best it can be for all of Cross-Roads, we need to think about a few things. Let's be conscious, every week, of who joins us in Sunday School, Youth Group and our Young Adult Groups – and those who aren't. I can't think of a friendlier, more fun group of people than we have – let's make sure we add WELCOMING to that list. Don't take it for granted that everyone knows someone in the group. It could well be that the new student you see just moved to our area and is looking to YOUR GROUP to begin making new friends. Please make sure you greet and introduce new people every week if necessary – and we hope it will be!

Also, let's be intentional to notice who isn't here each week. Most of our groups are small enough that we notice when a new face or an old face is missing. If one of your friends misses your group – and they rarely do that – please find out why. It only takes a moment to call and see if that person is feeling bad or if something else is wrong. It's always a shame when a group member misses a few weeks and no one bothers

to call and see if anything is wrong – it makes them feel like no one cares whether they come or not, and that is NOT the case!

I know our leaders are finalizing fall calendars even as I write this. They will make sure that we have a calendar for the fall available and OUT to students and parents right away. Students, let your leaders know as soon as possible if you will be attending special events or not – it makes coordinating these events so much easier if we don't have a LOT of last minute changes. And, our parents are the best partners our ministry could possibly have! Parents: if you have questions about schedules or what happens in a particular group or anything about the CR Ministry; please ask the leaders or me (Pastor Pat) and we'll get answers for you.

Finally, I'd like to ask anyone in the congregation to consider being a CR Prayer Partner. Here in a few weeks, our Prayer Partner Ministry Team will begin asking for volunteers to pray regularly for the leaders of the CR. This is an absolutely essential ministry to our leaders. Prayer is one of the things we can definitely point towards as the foundation for any success we might have had at the CR.

**Remember, you can always access the CR calendar on the Web at [thecrossroads-umc.org](http://thecrossroads-umc.org)**



I think the 2008-2009 School Year is going to be an amazing year at the CR. Lives and hearts will be changed; young people (and some of us who aren't so young) will mature in their faith and will spur us to new ministries and even more opportunities to reach more people with the message of the CrossRoads: Jesus loves us. We love you. Now, go spread the word!

Oh, yeah, this is going to be a GREAT year. Thank you for all you do and will do to make it so.

*Pastor Pat*



*It's a Girl!*

Congratulations to Heather, Trent and Sophia Watkins, and Pat and Cathy Sleeth on their new daughter, sister and granddaughter.

Claire Pauline Watkins arrived on 8/12/08 at 4:12 in the afternoon. Weight - 8 lbs, 12 oz Height - 19.75" tall.

Congratulations !!

**See YOU at the CrossRoads**

# Junior High Update

## TEENS ON A MISSION

By Dana Kirkwood

WOW! Summer is O-V-E-R! It just doesn't seem possible. This year, T.O.M. added a great group of sixth graders to our mix, and we can't wait to get to know these young ladies and gentlemen more over the next year. To do this, we have scheduled some great events! We can't wait to see you there!

First, Nathan has invited us over to his home for a swimming party! We ask that the students bring something to share! Please don't forget your towel!

Swimming Party!  
AUG. 24, 2008  
5:00 – 7:30  
6208 S 150 W  
LAFAYETTE, IN 47909  
538-2863

Next, T.O.M. is going camping... again!

T.O.M.'s Camping Trip  
Sept. 6, 2008  
Shades State Park

**RSVP must be in by August 24!**

In addition to these fun events, we will have our regular weekly meetings at St. Andrew. We encourage all 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders to consider coming to join in on the fun and fellowship.

Don't forget that we are helping out at Blueberry Palooza THIS Saturday! We'll be setting up at 10 a.m. and tearing down at 7 p.m. All are welcome to help out!!

## Senior High Reminder...

THIS Sunday, August 17th, Tom Arrowsmith is opening his house to all Senior Highers and their families to come hang out. The Olympics will be on, the X-Box will be available, the basketball hoop is ready for action. Watch movies, play cards, jump on the trampoline, or just relax with friends...and eat.

Parents can drop their kids off or parents are welcome to hang out also. Stay as little or as long as you want to. See you there!

## August / Sept. Junior High Events

A calendar of future events to clip and place on your refrigerator

August 17

10a Sunday School  
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

August 24

10a Sunday School  
5-7:30p Swimming Party  
(see article at left for info)

August 31

10a Sunday School  
No Youth Group

September 6

10a Sunday School  
11a Leave for camping trip  
from church

September 7

10a Sunday School  
Noon Campers return to St.  
Andrew (No youth group that  
night!)

# News from the Young Adult Ministries

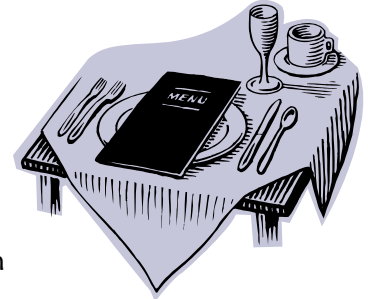
## Young Adult August and Upcoming Events

Weekly after the 11:00 service on Sundays, we eat out together to enjoy each other's fellowship.

Saturday August 23 or 30 - Canoe trip.



Monica Hoover can provide more information on either activity, so check with her!



## Christmas on My Mind

That's right, Christmas!

The Fusion Planning Team has already started looking ahead to the annual Sounds of the Season Christmas service to be held Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm in the Great Room. This is a wonderful service that combines both the sacred and secular tunes of the Christmas season into one beautiful evening.

If you have any questions and/or are interested in sharing your talents, please contact Katie Biehl at 714-5068 or [kcbiehl@purdue.edu](mailto:kcbiehl@purdue.edu).



HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!