

The CrossRoads Connection



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

State of the State (of The CrossRoads)

Well, spring is springing, or WILL be springing soon. Like you, I'm suffering a bit from "Cabin Fever," and these sunny (but very cold) days are teasing me to think about what's ahead.

And, thinking about spring always gets me thinking about The CrossRoads Ministry to Youth and Young Adults. Why? Maybe it's just that the anticipated greening up and blooming reminds me of the energy of our youth; you don't always see it right NOW, but you know its going to burst out any minute – somewhere!

Perhaps spring reminds me of The CR because I know, like you know, that a garden or flower bed only lives up to its greatest potential if we carefully tend it. If we neglect it, it either won't look like we hoped it would look or worse, actually take away from something else.

chipping in

So, given that the sun is brightly shining through my office window, and I'm about half-day dreaming of all the lawn chores I have to do before spring actually gets too far ahead of me, I thought it might be a good time to take a look at some of the things that are "blooming" at the CrossRoads.

The old saying that the apple doesn't far too far from the tree is certainly true with the CR! If you scratch us (St. Andrew), we bleed missions. It is the heart of any church that is alive and following, as best it can, in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Last year, the Junior High, Senior High and the Young Adults all shared a variety of mission experiences. The Junior Highers, under the leadership of Dana K., Jeff Norris, Monica Hoover and other adult leaders/volunteers stayed in state and spent a weekend in

Indianapolis working with the Mission Indy Team. This is an organization that assists youth groups find much needed mission projects here in Indiana, and the Junior High group will be using them again this spring for another weekend mission experience. Our Senior High youth group and our Young Adult group both went to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY last year, though at different times.

This week, a small Young Adult group, led by Monica Arrowsmith, headed to Bristol, TN to do a first-ever "combo" Spring Break Mission Trip. We are spending the bulk of the week working with a mission in Bristol that works with battered women doing some painting and clean-up kinds of repairs and then spending a day or so offering the Young Adults a chance to relax



Pat Sleeth is pastor to the CrossRoads community.

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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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and be challenged by some adventure options. They can do ropes courses, go caving, hiking or climbing – all are options for them (Note: the adventure part of the trip will be self funded by the individuals. No CR Cares money will be spent for anything other than housing, transportation, and directly-related mission support).

July 19–24, Tom Arrowsmith will be taking a group of Senior High students to Lookout Mountain, GA for a



combination camp/mission experience. This is an exciting new event for us. Each day will begin and end with a worship experience, and the bulk of the day will be spent doing missions work. They will be staying at a small college in their dorms and are looking forward to giving this option a try for this summer.

Speaking of missions, CR Cares is our mission arm, led by Laurie Klenosky. This group does everything from help raise funds to mission awareness, assisting our groups prepare and helping coordinate flood buckets – this is an active behind the scenes group.

Our Sunday School classes (Junior High – Dorothy, Pat & Bob; Senior High – Roland & Becky; and Monica A. for our Young Adults) and youth groups (Junior High – Dana, Jeff, Monica, Ted & Marilyn, Senior High—Joy & Tom) are growing and we are having to hustle to keep up with the space require-

ments and energy of these groups! A big thank you to the leaders of these groups for their continued excellent management of these groups and helping them stay focused on our real purpose – becoming more like Jesus today. Our groups are having fun and realizing that being Christian does NOT equal boring. Again, that's a testament to our great leaders and our great students.

The CAB and our Junior and Senior High Youth Group leaders teamed up to have our first ever New Year's Eve Party, and St. Andrew was certainly buzzing on that night – complete with our own version of the New Year Ball Drop.

The Fusion, our mid-week worship experience is still alive and well. This year Simply Puppets, under leadership of the Fosters, will be joining us each month, helping us kick off new series and generally adding to the fun/depth of conversations. This worship experience is open to all ages, and we'd love to have you there. Katie Biehl is our worship leader for this service and leads Waiting to Wake, our praise band, and they rock! All we need is YOU.

Our CAB is going strong, taking care of the business of The CR. We appreciate the efforts of Dean Brusnighan, Monica Arrowsmith, Sarah Vallier, Ted Foster, Carol and Elizabeth Downard, Chris Norris, Robin Thomas and Tonya Bess. One of the most important new initiatives to come out of this group is the formation of a "Substitute List" to fill in for our regular leaders who are absent due to illness or vacation. If we can't find substitutes, we have to cancel the event or under-staff it. So, please consider

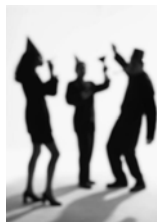
signing up for our substitute list (see Ted Foster, Carol or Elizabeth Downard for info).

There are so many other programs happening in The CR that it's hard to get them all mentioned, from this newsletter (thanks Marilyn Foster) to the Tour de CrossRoads (thanks Steve Tally and the long list of volunteers/organizers) to the AMAZING BreakAway Program headed by Sue Burchill and her troupe of merry-makers. We have the CR Caterers (thanks Marilyn Korn, Ann Harding, Teresa Boaz and all who donate food/assistance). Tom Paczolt is our wizard with a smoker and lends a hand whenever asked. We have a staff photographer (Debbie Honsowetz) and web masters (Atsushi Fukada and Taylor Honsowetz). We have our amazing Prayer Partners led by Robin Thomas/Tami Snyder and our new Tutoring Coordinator Deanna Campbell to thank also. We have all the members of Waiting to Wake (Katie, Cathy, Heather, Katie P., Joe, Matt and Tracie) and the Fusion Planning Team for helping pull the service together each week.

As you can see, there is a LOT happening at the CR, and it takes a lot of people to make that happen – and I didn't list everyone in every ministry at the CR – there's not room here.

I am so grateful for the leadership and efforts of our volunteer leaders – they are only second to Jesus Christ as the heart of the CR. Without their efforts, all I've just mentioned – and several I know I've probably skipped in the interest of saving space or my poor memory—would never happen. So, I think the state of The CR is pretty good

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Senior High Update

Christians In Action

By Tom Arrowsmith

On March 8 we had a baby shower for Joy. All the kids brought in books that they had read and liked from when they were young. There were games - boys drinking out of baby bottles and everyone trying to identify candy bars melted into diapers were just a few of the games played.

On March 15 we had a fun night with a church based biblical scavenger hunt followed by ice cream sundaes for all.

Be sure to check out the calendar on the right for upcoming activities.

Also, the Senior High Mission Trip is coming up in July; all deposits are due by March 30 to reserve your spot. If you have any questions please contact Tom Arrowsmith.

We are having a lot of fun in Senior High. We are open to all 9th thru 12th graders, so come and join us.



Senior High Events

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

March 22

10a Sunday School
NO YOUTH GROUP

March 29


10a Sunday School
6p Youth Group, Joy leading

April 5

10a Sunday School
6p Youth Group,
offensive T-Shirt night

April 12

10a Sunday School
NO YOUTH GROUP



Senior High Sunday School Blog

By Roland Winger

The year was 1985, and the Coca-Cola company had poured thousands of hours and millions of dollars into an anticipated blockbuster product that would buoy its sinking market share and save the company. Losing faith in its once dominant Coca-Cola, the company launched New Coke to battle against the surging Pepsi-Cola product in a head-to-head battle for dominance.

Who would have thought? Thousands of hours and millions of dollars...with a marketing success soon to follow. But the success was never realized. Thousands of hours and millions of dollars...yet the only surge the Coca-Cola company created was one of disgruntlement and outright anger from its long-time loyal customers.

And so what did Coca-Cola do? In a bold move, it turned 180° and repoured its efforts into the one product on which its very existence was founded...Coke Classic. The rest is history. Coke reestablished its position as the leader in the cola business, bringing joy to all who thought its days were over.

In our world where modern is in, and where retro is modern, the high school Sunday School class is getting back to the classic. The genuine article. The focus of all the teaching since this school year has started has been on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. We've dedicated this year to this study to get back to the only thing that ultimately makes the difference in our lives...a knowledge of and personal relationship with Jesus.

We've looked at Jesus' teachings, his miracles and the parables. We've looked more deeply into His grace, His preference to be out of the spotlight, His love for the unlovely and the difficulty those around him had in understanding the kingdom of which He spoke.

As we approach Easter Sunday, we are nearing the end of our study of Christ with an extended look at the events of the Holy Week. Last week, we explored the Palm Sunday Triumphant entry. Clips from the movies *Jesus of Nazareth* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* incited great discussion. In the weeks ahead, we will look at the

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Pastor Pat's Chipping In

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and the outlook continues to be positive and will stay that way as long as we continue to have the great leadership we currently enjoy.

I hope you take the chance, as often as you can, to thank these leaders as they care for our students and help them grow in their faith.

And, if, by chance, you are looking for a leadership opportunity yourself, know that we are currently looking to add a much-needed person to the leadership team of the Senior High Youth Group (Joy will be taking a maternity break until fall), and we will be replacing Monica Arrowsmith as our leader of the Young Adult Sunday School class as she will be taking over the presidency of the CAB soon and also will be adding another ministry to her list. So, we need YOU! See Pastor Pat or Ted, Carol or Elizabeth if you'd like to talk about either of these IMPORTANT positions.

And, as always, we continue to thank you for your prayers and your support in so many ways.

Last, and MOST, I certainly thank God for His leadership of this ministry. Without the vision of growth, love and acceptance that He offers, we certainly wouldn't be where we are today.

Pastor Pat

P.S. The Confirmation has 30 students in it and is going very well. Thank you to all the mentors and families who are taking their roles seriously. You are doing a great job to help our students grow in their faith and to make decisions about who they are and who they want to be.

simply people puppet troupe news

By Laney Arrowsmith

I have been in the puppet ministry for little bit over a year now, and I have enjoyed it so much! The reason why I have enjoyed it so much is because I can talk, act and entertain people. I can entertain people by the laughter and the warm hearts that get touched.

When I was really young my parents noticed my habit. That habit of course is — you guessed it — talking. I then realized way back when that I wanted to act. I always thought it would be so cool to be in front of people and perform for them. I could recite lines from movies down to the point, back to front, and imitate people that I either knew or a character from a movie. So when I was in kindergarten, we had a graduation to celebrate getting out of kindergarten. We all had to dress up to present the career we wanted. Many people dressed up as either a businessman or woman, police officer, etc. I dressed up as a surgeon, with all of the materials a surgeon would have. However, everyone was supposed to say into the microphone what they wanted to be when they grow up. I, however, did not want to be a surgeon, I wanted to be a pilot. Unfortunately, my mom could not find the costume that went with a pilot. Instead she had me go as a surgeon. So going to the microphone I said, "when I grow up, I want to be a pilot." Everyone roared with laughter as I ran off the stage, skittishly. Everyone knew that I was supposed to say, "when I grow up, I want to be a surgeon." I did not really know what was going on, but I knew distinctly that I made a crowd laugh for the first time.

Still over the years since then, I have been interested in acting and performing. I went to a few acting camps in Ohio that lasted for two weeks at least. I played the violin and performed pieces as well. I was in the school band throughout grade school and middle school playing the clarinet. I had also done a few other things such as: school plays, talent shows, and things for other churches. This year as a freshman, I tried out for the duchess in "Alice in Wonderland." I did not get the part unfortunately, but I didn't care, I still got to act. I hopefully will maybe get known somehow whether if it's acting or something out of those lines that is very successful.

So in conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Foster for letting me have this opportunity to be in the puppet ministry. I hope to still be performing and acting for a really long time.



Senior High Sunday School Blog

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Last Supper, Jesus' trial, the Crucifixion, and on Easter Sunday, we will celebrate and learn of His resurrection.

Becky and I are honored to be a part of the lives of the students in the high school class. We hope our time with them this year helps them see that with all the messages the world sends their way, Christ as "the way, the truth and the life" is worth banking everything on... and that thousands of man's hours and millions of man's dollars has proven that over and over.

It's trendy now to be retro...and retro means classic.

A Day in the Life

by Becky Winger

Life is so daily. Stress can be daily, too.

Every Thursday I meet my parents at the mall to walk at 8:00 a.m. sharp. Old people aren't late. They would get there the night before if the doors were unlocked. The doors used to open at 7:00 a.m. but the security guard didn't like getting up that early, so they changed the opening to 8:00 a.m. I heard about that for weeks.


You probably think mall walking involves walking. It used to. When I started going about five years ago, we'd walk about a mile, and I learned to stay to the right, or the fast ones would run over me. Just like on the highway. These mall walkers are serious. Now my mom's knee hurts some days (depending on the weather) although I suspect she's worried someone will steal "our table".

You know, like on Sunday morning when you get to church a little late and SOMEONE'S IN YOUR SEAT. Yep. Of course, there are over a dozen tables and maybe two or three have folks at them. But it's her right. So now there's more time to talk. There is the unspoken rule that at 9:00 a.m. everyone will leave exactly at the same time. Important daily things are going on, and PeeWee or the Mayor of Buck Creek don't want to miss out on them.


I've learned some important lessons from my mall time. I've learned more about stints, splints and shunts than a geriatric staff. As we eat some diabetic muffins (I make them for my mom), I sit and listen to these relics of daily life. And the things I learn. Did you know PayLess Grocery ads come on different days of the week each week and that they vary from the Journal Courier or the mail delivery? Every week we have the "Gold List" of topics we always touch on - where's the cheapest gas in the city? What restaurants got a bad score in the Journal by the health department? Where did everyone eat last night? How is their cholesterol or blood thickness? (This is a number from 1 to 10; that much I

get!) How's Purdue doing in ball? And last but not least, where they are going to eat tonight.

You may say, "You've got a little too much time on your hands hanging out with the oldies". Yes, they somehow get "daily". They don't stress over things like I do. And the gems I've taken away from these hours. Once my dad told me I have to have \$35 when he dies. "What for?" I asked. He said it was to print the year he died on his gravestone. They can't do that ahead of time. What was I thinking?! Once dad told me if my mom or him are really sick and need to go to the hospital, take them to Lebanon. "Why?" I asked. He said, "Because if we die in a Lafayette hospital, it's gonna cost \$600 to get us to the funeral home in Lebanon." (They've prepaid, you know...well, everything except for that \$35). I told him I'd drive him. In the convertible. Morbid, you say? Well, honestly it's made me see death as a more daily thing. Death is part of living to these 80 plus-year-olds. So when my teenagers are stressing me out, or my debit card won't work... Just give me Thursday. Just hope I hit the traffic lights right so I won't be late.



A Special
THANK YOU



I want to send out the warmest thanks to Tom Arrowsmith, Debbie Honsowetz, Lisa Townsley, Laurie Klenosky, Becky Winger, Melissa Deason, and the entire Sr. High Youth Group for the WONDERFUL *surprise* baby shower thrown for me on March 8. I feel truly blessed to have a group of people like you in my life. Thank you for all of your support and encouragement through this seemingly endless journey of mine. I know my child can feel the immense amount of love that is awaiting him.

Love in Christ, Joy L. May