

The CrossRoads Connection



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

Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes



EDITOR'S NOTE: Pastor Pat continues to recover from his recent surgery.

Monica Arrowsmith, incoming president of the CrossRoads Advisory Board, volunteers to fill his shoes this week.

So, I'm standing here inside this column and I find myself in a fairly intimidating space. This is Pastor Pat's space, which he ALWAYS fills with his exceptional wit and wisdom, sharing his love for Jesus, for his family and for all of us. Happily, I can report that he is recovering well and will be back to writing this column in no time.

But for this time, you got me! Coming up with a topic seemed a little daunting at first, but it didn't take me long to find my inspiration – all I had to do was look at my own life right now. To summarize, over the course of this month of May, I have or will have: gotten a new boss, moved to a new home, had a

chipping in

child/young man graduate from high school, planned and hosted a graduation party (with lots of out of town family), planned a Women's Retreat, launched a new ministry and had a close friend and mentor have unexpected open heart surgery. And that's just off the top of my head! Now, of course, I haven't done or gone through all of this alone – my family, my friends and my co-workers have all been involved, and many sharing in the event. But, when it comes right down to it, change events are personal. And the way we each handle such change is individual, even if the same event is happening to two or more people. And, really, what change event only happens to one person? Even if I was the only person to get a new boss (I wasn't), the trickle around and down effect affects lots of people.

So, when we are faced with change events, big or

small or one or many, how do we react? Well, we discussed this in our Young Adult Sunday Study this past week. In particular, because so many in this study are experiencing change events as well – graduations, new jobs, relocations, marriage, etc., we looked to some models in scripture. From a New Testament perspective, I can't think of a more dramatic change event than Saul's conversion to Paul in Acts 9. Talk about change! The guy goes from the greatest – hunting, imprisoning, and killing followers of The Way to being blinded for three days requiring



Monica Arrowsmith provides leadership to our Young Adults

him to be led by and dependent on the guys with him (who themselves were undergoing a change with the loss of their leader) to having his sight returned, upon which he immediately began preaching that Jesus was the Son of God – and continued until his death.

(Continued on page 2)

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.

(Continued from page 1)

We wonder what was going on while Paul was blind? The clues in Acts are not many. But we guessed that he probably reacted like we would. Surely he was scared some of it; Angry? Maybe; Wondering if this was permanent? Probably; Bargaining for something else? Blaming others? Complaining? It all seems likely – and familiar. Or, maybe not. Maybe Paul received such a sense of peace and grace from his encounter with the Lord that he didn't have much of an emotional reaction. And maybe he continued to receive that same sense of peace by centering himself through prayer while he was blind. The text does tell us that while Paul was blind *he was praying*. And, because through a dream he understood that his sight would be restored, I have to think that his praying included *listening*. Hmmmm, praying and listening. Hard to do when your change is all-consuming and pre-occupying. Essential, though, to go through change and remain a credible witness to Christ AND to understand the incredible Kingdom opportunities each change event brings.

Speaking of change, I wonder, how many of us should be considering whether to make a change in our own lives right now? We have so many needs in this Church for leadership and for ministry support. In Cross-Roads alone, we are looking for leadership in our Young Adult Ministry, in our Sr. High Ministry, for the CR portion of the newsletter, for substitute Sunday School teachers, to name a few. Nearly all of the CR ministries could use additional

help and support. Our church is growing, which is another way to say changing. Won't you pray and listen for your call to change? To accept and claim a particular ministry as yours? If you want to talk about the CR possibilities to pray about, please call me, Dean Brusnighan, Pastor Pat (when he returns) or any other member of the CR Advisory Board.

And, one last change to mention...at the end of this month, Dean Brusnighan will be ending his tenure as President of the CR Advisory Board, having completed two years in that role. I have had the distinct pleasure and honor of working with Dean over this past year. He has done an outstanding job, helping to lead the CR from a business operating model to a ministry model, where every meeting includes small group devotion time and prayer. Along with Pastor Pat, we have shared spiritual growth and serious laughter together. Dean will be missed, but thankfully, he's not going too far!

Your Friend In Christ,
Monica

**Remember,
you can always
access the CR
calendar on the
Web at
thecrossroads-
umc.org**



Senior High Update

The Senior High youth group just finished a series discussing issues that all senior high students come across - peer pressure, comparisons to others, and consequences of actions. We had great discussions!

Now we have started a new series - Paul in Rome. This study involves the life of Paul and discusses how followers of Christ can stand up to cultural "norms" and stand firm with Christ.

We also are planning some fun summer events. Come on out and join the fun.

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**May/June
Sr. High Events**

May 24	10a Sunday School NO YOUTH GROUP
May 31	10a Sunday School 6p Youth Group
June 7	10a Sunday School 6p Youth Group
June 14	10a Sunday School 6p Youth Group
June 21	10a Sunday School NO YOUTH GROUP

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HELP WANTED...

The CrossRoads team is searching for a **Newsletter Editor**. If you are interested in this position or desire more information, please contact Marilyn Foster at fosters.midwest@verizon.net or 765-420-0452.

See YOU at the CrossRoads