

The CrossRoads Connection



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

The Love of Family



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

Cathy Sleeth, special projects coordinator for CrossRoads

AND Pastor Pat's wife, shares her thoughts about the love that has enveloped her family during this time of healing.

It is hard to express just how daunting a task it is for me to write my husband's column. Both he and Heather would be quick to explain that I am not the writer in the family; in fact, I come in dead last when it comes to putting words on paper. I think I am still ahead of Sophia and Claire, but Sophia is gaining on me daily.

I was given this opportunity so that I could talk a little about the last five weeks and just what the St. Andrew family continues to mean to us. From the moment the doctor told us that Pat would not be leaving the hospital until

chipping in

he was released after bypass surgery the prayers and support of our Church family has sustained us. I walked out of the room and made two phone calls, one to the Church and the other to my office. Visits and cards started immediately. I could not begin to thank everyone by name for fear that I would inadvertently leave someone out, and all of you are too precious to us for me to risk such a task. Suffice it to say that we received hundreds of cards. The colorful messages sent from Children's Church that we decorated

Pat's hospital room with made him and the hospital staff laugh and smile. (Someone left out a roll of surgical tape; I have always lived by the rule that it is easier to ask forgiveness than permission...)

I was asked if I was ever

concerned about Pat's safety during his stay and surgery. I have to admit that I was really on autopilot for a lot of things and numb to others. I very firmly believe that he was always in God's hands from his choice to have the angiogram because of his brother's heart attack to the Fly Fishing Thoracic Surgeon he spent a few hours tying flies with two days before his surgery. The sweetest words I heard were "he is off the bypass machine" because that meant everything was working again and all we needed was time and patience for him to heal.



Cathy Sleeth wears many hats here at St. Andrew.

We have had so many offers of food that I have had to graciously say no to. I am more than aware that we have a congregation of excellent cooks, but I was told that we

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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.

Chipping In

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needed to be very careful about his diet, especially the first few months. In my military fashion I simply took over all meals and knew that I could control the situation that way. I do sincerely apologize to everyone who I had to say no to and hope you realize that I am extremely grateful and humbled by your offer even though I couldn't accept it.

I think I would be remiss if I did not comment on the fact that Pat had no symptoms that caused him to go to the doctor's. I mention this because we all need to think about our health and what we are doing to take care of ourselves. Family history definitely plays a role in our health, as do lifestyles. This last Saturday we had a most delightful time at the Women's Retreat. We were able to listen to speakers talk about our health, both physical and spiritual. Very simple lessons but so hard to follow without a sincere commitment to cherish the life we have been given. It reminds me of the Bible lessons we all have heard growing up about our bodies being temples with Jesus living within us. I realize my own shortcomings in taking care of my temple and pray that God will give me the wisdom and desire to make the right choices.

I am grateful for the opportunity to take a moment and thank

you, my Church family, for all your love and support. Your prayers have been and continue to be felt by my family, and I am eternally grateful for them and you. God has us in His hands, and those hands often look and feel like yours.

Cathy

INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

The senior high youth would like to thank all the congregants who contributed to their upcoming mission trip to Georgia.

The recipient of the \$300 Speedway gas card was **Judy Weaver**, who graciously donated half of that amount towards the mission trip. Congratulations and thank you, Judy!

The leaders and youth traveling to Georgia will be sure to keep everyone updated on their adventures and mission work.

Thank you again to the entire congregation for supporting our youth.

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



Moving On Up...

By Katie Townsley



Soon, we (former) eighth graders will be moving from junior high youth group over to senior high youth group. This is going to be tough because

we are going to miss everyone so much. For one, this is Dana Kirkwood's first group that she's seen come in and go out of her youth group. Dana, Jeff and Monica – the three main leaders – have made a huge impact on our lives. And we have made an impact on theirs! We also will be leaving Ted and Marilyn, who just started with the youth group this year.

Teens on a Mission (T.O.M.) is an inspiration. When you join the youth group, you have a bib around your mouth, but then the youth leaders just rip it off and give you an apron. The joy of service is just one of the things we have learned throughout the three years at youth group. T.O.M. also taught us how to have fun with worship.

Youth group is not an event; youth group is a family. When you enter the group as a sixth grader, you just think it's something to do on a Sunday night, but soon you realize it's much more than that. There is always laughter and smiles about the youth group. T.O.M. becomes a safety circle of friends.

The eighth graders who are leaving strongly encourage the middle school teens to go to youth group, and stay there. It is something you won't want to miss!

See YOU at the CrossRoads

Teens on a Mission

By Dana Kirkwood

Another Group Moves On....

Have you ever wanted to grab hold of time and pull it to a screeching halt? I have never felt such a strong draw to stop time as I do right now. It is that time when we have to say goodbye to our 8th graders. I'm just not ready to do it, but they are ready to go. I know this because we've watched them grow, mature, and spread their wings; and as much as we want them to fly... our nest is going to seem awfully empty without them.

I hope you won't mind while I take an opportunity to let you know why this group of kids means so much to us and why saying goodbye is so hard to do.

Nick Cutter joined us after attending the first lock-in. Since that time, Nick has entertained us with his hysterical wit and quiet nature. He is so talented with people and has the ability to make everyone feel included when he chooses to exercise that gift. I love spending time with him because I'm guaranteed to laugh.

Emily Townsley came into youth group after our first Halloween party and never left. She has a gifted voice. She is always very good at listening to our lessons and putting them into practice. Additionally, Emily can get the group redirected on task much better than I can! Someday, she's going to make an excellent leader in whatever she chooses to do.

Jacob Deason was a part of youth group almost from our very first moment. Many of you may believe that Jacob is a quiet shy young man, and maybe he is, but for me, I will always love him for his most mischievous manner. When he's around, it means that I will get a chance to see his eyes sparkle and that grin creep across his face because he's caught, and I will get to laugh, a lot!

Elizabeth Downard was our first 6th grader! In fact, that first summer, she once was the only attendee at youth group starting the tradition of going for ice cream if only a few kids show up. Elizabeth is outgoing not only in her personality but in her faith. There is no denying that Elizabeth loves God and wants you to know it!

Katie Townsley showed up with at the same Halloween party as her sister. She came as a pig and proceeded to inform me that pigs were absolutely the cutest animal EVER! Katie has been instrumental in bringing the younger kids into youth group. She has a true talent of making us all feel connected.

Nathan Honsowetz was a hard sell on youth group. He was sure we would bore him to tears, and he wouldn't like a soul there. I think we succeed in boring him occasionally, but he's been the center of attention more than once! Nathan has a great sense of sarcastic humor and a smile that brightens my day.

Ashley Slover joined us in 6th grade at the first lock in. If you haven't met Ashley, you should! She is free spirit that is very okay with who she is. Ashley has a creative nature that she puts forth in her thoughts. She has a strong opinion, and like me, she isn't afraid to use it! Plus, she has a great singing voice.

Zach Grundy turned up in 7th grade about the time of the second lock-in. First, you should know, you should NOT give Zach an energy drink. He doesn't need them. The boy has more energy in his little finger than the

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rest of us have in a lifetime. Zach always steps up to help. It doesn't matter if he's asked or not, he's there with a gracious heart.

Jay Chapman once told me if I had potato chips at every youth group, he'd be there every Sunday. While neither of us kept up that agreement, he was always a joy when he showed up. His laughter and humorous look at things always caused me to laugh.

Matthew Reif showed up in 7th grade too! Matthew is a very athletic individual. Matthew brings a fire and energy into the group when he attends. I loved to listen to Matt talk about his different sports and how he allowed his competitive nature to soar. Matt provides a great energy and humor as well to our group.

Robyn Campbell joined us once this spring, and while she's very new to St. Andrew, it's apparent at first meeting that she's bright and insightful. She fit in naturally with the group, and I look for her to be a natural fit in with the high school group as well.

Courtney Coakes attended as a sixth grader before tennis took her away from us. She is a beautiful intelligent young woman that is sure to take high school by storm!

Liz Johnson joined us for the lock-in during 7th grade. Additionally, Liz has always been willing to help when we have church events that require us to be present in church services. If you know Liz, you know she is a bright and talented athletic young lady.

Erin Sommers attended sporadically over the years. Erin is a wonderful entertaining young lady. She's very busy with her many sports and her volunteering with church. Her eyes dance when she laughs, and I always enjoy watching her play sports whether that is volleyball, basketball, or soccer.

Clay Murphy attended for the first time at our annual super bowl party. Clay fit right into the group too. When he got too busy to attend, we noticed his absence right away. Clay has beautiful eyes that give away what he's thinking, and his easy going nature makes you want to be near him.

While I can't wait to get to know the newest group of kids coming into Junior High, it is with a very heavy heart I say to this group.... *"I love you all! Now, GET OUT!"*

Teens on a Mission LOCK IN, 2009!

Friday, June 19

Place: St. Andrew United Methodist Church

TIME: 7pm - 8am Saturday morning

Cost \$5.00

Friends are invited!!!

RSVPs / Forms are required by June 7th

Canned Goods Food Drive

Junior Highers! Don't forget to bring your canned goods to the Jr. High Sunday School room...we are competing against the Senior High for who can bring the most canned goods. All foods will be donated to the food bank after Vacation Bible School.

Thanks!

