

The CrossRoads Connection



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

Swimmin' Holes and Other Necessities!

Ah, summertime! Just saying that word (summertime) makes me feel good – and brings back a bunch of great memories. I think the summer is the perfect time for working on memories, don't you?

My grandfather, who has been gone for many years but still greatly influences my thinking today, used to say, "Summertime is when you make memories. February is when you pull 'em back out again."

My Grandfather Woofter was 12 feet tall and weighed about 900 pounds – at least to me. He could work from day light till dark and answer questions from a curious grandson until the wee hours of the morning and then get up and do it all again, and this when in his mid-80's. The man was amazing.

He could break a horse to harness in the morning and plow with him that afternoon. He

chipping in

could cure a sick cow or pig, grow the best garden in the county, put a roof on the barn (or house) and help the same grandson who asked all the questions catch a "mess of fish" for dinner. What kid wouldn't like this guy as his grandfather/mentor?

My grandfather could do anything and knew everything. He was born and raised in a time when most of the farming was done with horses and he saw no reason to farm any other way – even after just about everyone else in the country had tractors. He worked from "can see to can't see" pretty much everyday except for Sunday – he would never do anything but feed the livestock and milk the cows on Sunday – and frowned on anyone else working on the Sabbath, as well.

The strongest language I ever heard him use was "Dagnabit!" and when he

said that, something was greatly annoying him! He didn't care much for poor language, lazy dogs or democrats (sorry). Gramps was a died-in-the-wool West Virginia Republican. He could forgive a multitude of sins with "Well, at least he's Republican!" My father was at least as fervent in his politics as my gramps—except he was a Democrat. Consequently, by gentleman's agreement, politics were never brought up in their conversation.

Oh, yeah, my gramps was a hard worker, but one of the things he really enjoyed doing was playing hooky with one of his grandkids – and I was pretty much always up for whatever. I can remember many adventures that started out as chores. We'd head out to hoe in the cornfield and end up spending the bulk of the day after a fresh rain



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.

Chipping In

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looking for arrowheads – and then “hoe like heck!” Or, grandma (who was the real head of the family) would send us out with instructions to check the hill spring and while we were at it, see how the orchard was doing and fix the fence in the calf lot. And, we’d start out with every intention of doing just that and, next thing you know, we’d be building a fort in the woods or lazing away the afternoon by the fishing hole (which was on the other end of the farm). And, if it got hot enough, the fishing hole always ended up as the swimming hole – which necessitated our snoozing for an hour or so while our clothes dried. Being young in the summertime around my gramps was the best thing ever!

I asked him once, while we were off on an adventure of one kind or another, why we were playing and not working – not that I had a problem with that. He said simply that it was summertime and a person ought not work too hard during the summertime or, like as not, they’d catch an epizootic or something. Well, I didn’t want to catch one of those, so I’ve been pretty careful to not work TOO hard during the summer and, to this point, I’ve successfully avoided the epizootic and I’m pretty sure he never caught one either.

Now, I may be over thinking his country wisdom a bit, but I don’t think his suggestion to make memories in the summer and remember them in the winter had a lot to do with July and

February, but I suppose I could be wrong.

I think gramps was telling me to have my adventures when I was young (summertime) and to wring about as much out of life as one could so I could look back on a life well lived when I was older (February). And, I think he made a great point.

My granddad knew, just like I hope we know, that we only get to live this life once, so we’d better do it right. He once asked me did I think, once the role was called up yonder, if I’d wish I’d spent more time working or more time making memories with those I loved? Not being a major fan of work, I said, I reckoned I’d rather have spent more time with those I loved. He said, “Me, too. Now, where’d granny hide our fishin’ poles this time?”

When I find my life out of balance, I remember gramps and summertime and the joy I’ve known from both. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says “...there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the sun.” Gramps loved that text and would quote it when it was time to work and when it was time to play and he did both with great joy.

I hope your summer is being filled with an appropriate balance of work and fun. It’s July now; but

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



friends, February’s comin’! Now, where DID Cathy put that fishing rod?

Pastor Pat

Senior High Celebration!

On July 5, 18 Senior High youth descended on the Arrowsmith's for food & fellowship. A great time was had by all. It was a chance for the new members to interact with the existing kids, away from the constraints of church. We had kids on the trampoline, throwing footballs, playing wiffle ball, swimming, playing cards, playing x-box, and just hanging out with each other.

The menu consisted of grilled chicken, southwest pasta salad, fruit salad, watermelon, chips and lots of brownies.

The great thing is that ever so often the kids get into an environment where they can really just be themselves, and it's fun to just watch them! We have great kids in our church, and our congregation should stop and take the time to get to know them.

In a couple of weeks, 15 of our youth are leaving to go on a mission trip. Please pray for them and the leaders. We will report back to all of you when we return, and will invite all of you to come to a presentation sometime in September. Thank you, and God Bless!

See YOU at the CrossRoads

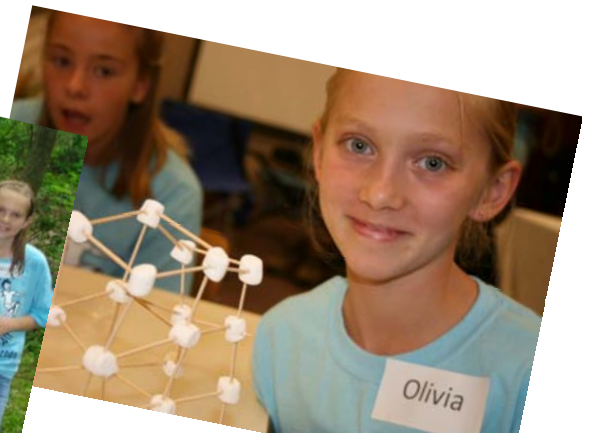
CrossRoads in Action...

BreakAway 2009

By Hannah Brainard



BreakAway was a life-changing experience for me. I got closer to God while having fun. We learned about service on Monday when we went to the food pantry. We helped sort out food and put it in bags for different sized families. On Tuesday, we learned about prayer and Bible study. We had a giant scavenger hunt at Happy Hollow Park. At each place we had to find the missing word in a Bible verse. On Wednesday, we learned about teamwork. We did the Boiler Challenge. You have to do different challenges working as a team. On Thursday, we had to take a risk by doing the big swing. I went all the way to the top of the 54 foot swing. Not everybody went to the top but they still took a risk by getting on. I was scared but I took a risk, because I knew God was near. On Friday we celebrated our good week by having a pool party at Jacqui and Dave Evans' home. That was my favorite part. We learned a chant that we performed for the church on Sunday. BreakAway was a lot of fun. I wish I could do it again next year, but it is someone else's turn.



Junior High Update

WACKY WHAT?!

¹³ But it is you, a man like myself,, my companion, my close friend,
¹⁴ with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.

Recently, in talking with an old friend, I mentioned that our youth group was hosting the Wacky Olympics. My friend, in turn, asked immediately what in the world a wacky Olympics was and what in the world does it have to do with faith and youth group. It dawned on me; most of our church doesn't know either. So, I'm going to tell you.

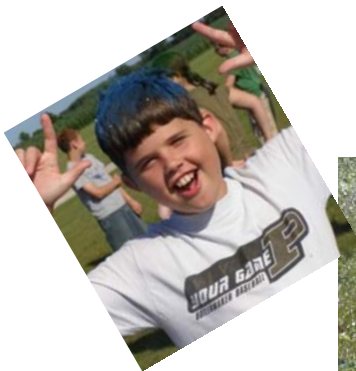
The week-end after VBS is complete, the classes change and we get a new group of bright eyed and brilliant sixth graders. The problem is that these amazing kids don't really know how youth group works, nor do they have the feeling of inclusion that the current seventh and eighth graders clearly have. So, we created a group of events that will allow the kids to have a good time and come together. The games change from year to year but the goal is always the same; to bring together kids from all the different schools and show them that being a Christian is a lot of fun!

Hopefully, we succeeded this year in doing just that very thing! We had a shaving cream fight, a water balloon fight, many water games, and a soapy slip-n-slide. The kids were allowed to soap up Marilyn's hair, throw water balloons at Ted, and laugh at Jeff's misfortune of breaking an entire cooler of water balloons, and a very brave soul dumped water on my head. It was a ton of fun.

As we begin this new year with new kids, I hope they will soon learn how incredibly important they are to the leaders, their junior high co-horts, and St. Andrew as a whole. In the next year, they will learn more about love, fun, and fellowship than they expect and quite possibly, so will their leaders!

Welcome aboard to the newest year of Teens On A Mission (T.O.M.)! It is going to be so much fun!

- Dana



July / August Junior High Events

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

July 12

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

July 19

10a Sunday School
6p T.O.M., The Intersection
Who Said I'm Lazy?

July 26

10a Sunday School
6p T.O.M., The Intersection
Dealing with the Cards

August 2

10a Sunday School
6p T.O.M., The Intersection
Let's Plan the Next Year!