

The CrossRoads Connection



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

Introducing...

I am very pleased to announce that the Staff Parish Relations Committee has selected Dana Kirkwood as the new Cross-Roads Director of Programs, beginning immediately. Dana was chosen from a great pool of talented applicants, and we very much appreciated their “tossing their hat’s in the ring,” so to speak!

So, in spite of the heading of this article, for most of you, Dana needs no introduction. She and her family have been part of our community of faith for several years now, and she has more than pitched in here! Well before she started her ministry with the CrossRoads, she worked with the Children’s Ministry and directed VBS for us as well and did a great job with them.

She and Jeff (her husband) actually began their ministry

chipping in

with the CR some 5 years ago (June 2005) when they took over the Jr. High Youth Group from Janet and Jason Dietz. I’ll be honest with you; I thought it would be tough for anyone to step in after Janet and Jason stepped down – they were well loved by their kids and the parents (and still are). I know I would have hated to follow them!

Still, Jeff and Dana did a great job and stuck it out and have built a Jr. High Ministry that we are certainly proud of – certainly they have built one of the strongest and

biggest leadership teams in the CR! I tease Jeff and Dana that they have more adults than they do kids – which is obviously not the case – but they have done a great job of recruiting and equipping their leaders to do a great job with the Jr. High students. Dana did so

well recruiting for her leadership team that we’re counting on her to help us take this to the next level and begin recruiting for all of the CR.

But, at the heart of Dana’s ministry is, of course, love. She has a strong and committed faith life that she nurtures with study and prayer, built on a foundation of love of God. She is passionate about her faith, and you don’t have to be around her for very long before that becomes clear. Pastor Tim,



Pat Sleeth is pastor to the CrossRoads community.

in church one Sunday, mentioned that one of the things we were looking for in this new position was “...someone who loves Jesus.” We got just the person!

And, the second “love” that is apparent with Dana is her love for “her” kids in the Jr. High and her

(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.

Chipping In

(Continued from page 1)

leadership team. She treats them with respect that allows them to be who they are, and they know she loves them. They come to her with problems of life and faith, not because they necessarily think she has all the answers – the young people often come to her just because they know she loves them.

One of the things we talk about ALL the time at the CR is that there is nothing more important in our lives and our ministries than the Three R's: Relationship, relationship, RELATIONSHIP! Chief among these relationships is our relationship with Jesus Christ, our families and our friends – and those Jesus sends to us. There will be many things that Dana will be asked to do in the future at the CR and at the heart of it all will be to help us grow in our relationships with God and others. We'll teach that. We'll do our very best to model that.

As Dana comes on board, I will begin transitioning the day-to-day programmatic responsibilities to her. This will take some time, but she's a quick learner. As we succeed in this, my own role here at St. Andrew, with the larger St. Andrew community will begin to change as well – more about that later – this is about Dana.

So, please take a moment when next you see Dana Kirkwood and congratulate her on her new job, and then, ask her how you can pray and support her as she takes the next exciting steps in her ministry career!#

Pastor Pat

TUTORS WANTED!

Just in case you didn't know, the CrossRoads offers a wonderful tutoring outreach to our community, and it is free of charge to the participants. We have heard beautiful stories of progress and growing success in school for the children who participate, and the tutors have received grateful thanks from the children and their parents for their efforts. Deanna Campbell heads up this wonderful program that is truly a gift to our community. Now, here's where the congregation comes in—they need our help to continue the same level of assistance they have been offering. They need more tutors! So, please think and pray about being a part of this great ministry team. If you'd like more information, either see Deanna at church on Sunday morning or email her at dcyrcampbell@comcast.net.

Soul Train

This past Saturday's all-church dance known as "SOUL TRAIN" was a rousing success. Everyone who came told us what a great time they had. One little boy told me he didn't know you were allowed to have fun in church. If you missed it this year, you better plan to make it next year.

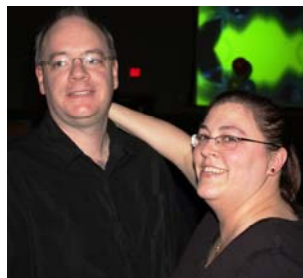
Fun, fellowship, learning, and of course dancing were all part of the evening's going ons. Adults and kids were amazed by the awesome decorations that filled the great room (thanks to Debbie, Monica, Jenny, Rosalie, Gabby and Laney) for making the room come alive. We had seating for over a hundred and room for everyone to dance also. The Leirds did an Argentinean Tango and then taught everyone how to do it themselves; the salsa was also taught to all who wished to learn. There was a married couple's dance, father/daughter, mother/son and so many other unique dances, all thanks to our music master and dancing gal, Jan Collins-Cutter. The DJ was Matt Harding who was extraordinary, and Taylor Honsowetz did an amazing job on the video board. Adam Bess designed all our flyers and the tickets for the event. Thanks, Adam!

We did the Hokey Pokey, YMCA, Conga Lines, Electric Slide, The Chicken Dance and so many others that got everyone on the dance floor. The dancing was a blast but so was the fellowship. We had people meet each other who had never crossed paths before. Some youth had a blast just sitting around eating and talking and enjoying each other's company. One young man told me his church was boring and he wished he came here. And in a sense that summed up the night and the reason for the event, to bring a diverse crowd closer together, closer to God, and to help out the Senior High Mission Team. All goals were accomplished, and everyone had fun.

A dance like this takes a lot of people to help pull it off. I want to especially thank Debbie Honsowetz, Monica Arrowsmith, Dana Kirkwood, Jeff Norris, and Lisa Townsley for all their hard work. It went beyond the call of duty. These people truly love our youth. A big shout out also goes to the Klenoskys, Tallys, Greiners, Deasons, Westons, Marla Soposky, Rob Parker, Todd Bess, and Tom Cutter.

- Tom Arrowsmith

CrossRoads in Action...



Additional pictures of the dance can be found at http://andrew-umc.org/site/component/option,com_wrapper/Itemid,39/
You can access the CR on the Web at <http://thecrossroads-umc.org>
You will need to register as a user.

Junior High Mission Trip

Junior High Youth Group is getting ready for their annual mission trip. We will be leaving St. Andrew on Saturday, April 10 to work in downtown Indianapolis with Mission Indy. This non-profit organization partners with several inner city churches and ministries to meet the needs of their brothers and sisters in the inner city. They use this as a "training ground" for groups to come together and learn how to minister to their own communities. We use this mission experience to give the kids an opportunity to learn how to serve others with love, compassion, and really, really hard work.

I know you can't imagine it to be true, but we actually hear the words "fun," "great," and "amazing" used during this trip. Last year, after kids carried two tons of rocks back and forth across the yard, the kids actually found MORE work to do to keep busy. The other group, covered in black dust, were laughing and taking pictures after an entire day of hard work tearing down an abandoned home. Additionally, we will have a fun fellowship evening. We spend the night in Englewood Christian Church. In the morning, we will be going to church services at a multi-cultural church in Broadripple.

This is an AMAZING opportunity for your junior higher, and we really recommend you consider letting your child join us. Additionally, we are looking for adult volunteers to come with us. The trip is \$10.00 to help defray the \$50 per student cost that we will be paying. The additional funds are made up thanks to donations and fundraisers throughout the year. If your child is interested in coming, permission slips can be picked up during any youth group meeting or during the Sunday School hour. **RSVPs are due by March 21.** You can drop permission slips at the office or bring them to youth group or Sunday School.
- Dana Kirkwood

March Junior High Events

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

March 7
10a Sunday School
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

March 14
10a Sunday School
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

March 21
10a Sunday School
NO YOUTH GROUP!

March 28
10a Sunday School
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

Recently, a group of junior high students put the Lord's Prayer in their own words. Here are a few of those prayers:

Father, may you be praised by your people,
and may you return to your kingdom.
Please provide us the nutrients,
and forgive us of all our sins against you.
As we try to forgive those around us
and let us not be swayed from your holy plan.



Your name should not be used in vain.
We hope to go to heaven.
There should be peace and love on Earth.
Give us our needs, please, forgive us and help us forgive others.
Don't let us fall into peer pressure.



(This is done as a rap)

Our god, chillin' in the heaven
Your name be praised, though our flows ablaze
May Christainity be spread
and our actions be led
In our world just like the Big H
Help us be fed
Help us get out of bed
Even though the looming evil could make us dead
Lead us not into sin
But make the world win-win
'Cause you're our God
And this rap is fin.

God, may you be forever.
Let heaven come down to us soon.
Can you supply us with the food we need today and tomorrow,
and forgive everything, even the littlest of our wrong doings,
and help us to forgive those (even the meanest) who are mean to us.
Help us to be more like you and your son,
so that we may not do things that we should not.