

# The CrossRoads Connection



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

## Disappointment is Not My Favorite Thing!

Disappointments can be so, well, disappointing, can't they? You get all revved up for some great thing, maybe that you've even been planning on for a long time and something unexpected (or expected, darn it) happens to derail your perfect plans.

Most of us have gone through the disappointment of planning the perfect vacation or get-away weekend and, at the last minute, a job requirement or a sick child or a vehicle breakdown blows your plans! Or, it rains for the whole week you're in paradise and then the sun breaks out on your drive home. Man do I hate that!



Pat Sleeth is pastor to the CrossRoads

I go through 4 stages when such unfortunate situations happen.

First, for me, there is the MAJOR disappointment stage. In this stage, I rant (as if that's somehow helpful) about the unfairness of the situation! I mean, can some-

one give me a good reason why the universe ALWAYS seems to intrude upon MY vacation? This is not a rational stage, so don't expect to hear rational thoughts or argument from me – I'm kind of like a shaken soda that HAS to fizz over or blow up. My wife just lets me fizz for awhile and then I'm ready for the next stage. I need to mention that I have to monitor my "fizz stage" pretty carefully or my better half begins to mutter, not under her breath, about one of us needing to "grow up."

I'm pretty sure I know who she means.

This next stage is the MEDIUM disappointment stage. I just walk around quietly suffering for awhile, just letting people I'm close to know that I'm pretty severely disappointed in the Cosmic Forces of Stuff and Things and that I've been let down – through no fault of my own - again. I no

longer blame the unfortunate incidence for totally ruining my life; it's more of a partially ruined life thing, but I now expect to recover – though it will take some time to heal. My wife usually does mutter under her breath during this stage, and you don't have to have ESP to figure out what she's muttering!

The next to last stage (for me) is the MINOR disappointment stage. By this time, I'm merely wounded, clearly the victim, but I'll survive. But by this time, there's no real, out loud, whimpering, but I have to admit that I know I'm wounded and don't try to hide it very well.

The last stage, honestly, is to laugh at myself – my wife has usually beat me by at least two stages if I take too long to get here. Cathy has a much healthier view of such things. Her point of view is a reasonable, "Well, that is dis-

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chipping in

Our VISION: The CrossRoads Youth Ministry of St. Andrew United Methodist Church embraces and supports the youth and young adults of our community and their families, seeks to inspire and guide their spiritual growth as Disciples of Jesus Christ, and then, empowers/challenges them to serve each other, the church and the whole world.

## Chipping In

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appointing. What should we do instead?" Or, "Think about how much fun it will be when we do get to do [whatever]." She clearly doesn't get it.

I mean, aren't we supposed to wear disappointment like a bandage, covering the wounds received? Aren't we completely justified in feeling like the world has let us down – again? I mean, are you paranoid if the forces of the cosmos really ARE out to get you?

Well, I guess, that's a bit overboard, isn't it? The fact is, sometimes things just don't work out for us. Sometimes, through no fault of our own, circumstances do get in the way of things we'd really rather be doing, and sometimes it feels like it only happens to us, which, of course, is never the case. The human part of us wants to find someone or something to blame for our not getting to do what we want to do. That's not a very mature attitude – I'm certainly old enough to be mature – I just don't always act like it!

It's completely human to be disappointed when things we plan for, save for and hope for fall through. The issue isn't that we get disappointed but how we handle it. It's not a bad thing to be upset when our dream job goes to someone else or the scholarship we had counted on for our first choice in colleges doesn't come through. These things, properly worked through, can and do make us stronger, better able to handle change and

disappointments in the future. These set-backs help develop desirable leadership traits like the ability to be adaptable and how to quickly develop a Plan "B" when necessary. These situations can teach us how to maintain a positive attitude throughout trials – and we'll all have trials.

The ability to turn challenge into opportunity is often what separates genuine long-term success from plain old failure. The average response of blaming others (even if there is no one to really

blame) or getting angry (even if there is no one to be angry with) is just that – average. Successful people rarely waste time or energy on things they can't control – they invest in the things they CAN control – and they usually come out on top.

If we can never figure out how to work past the disappointment/blame game, we will struggle to find a mature faith. Isn't it crazy how, when the worst happens, things like natural disasters or

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### Tour de CrossRoads Bike Ride on Oct. 11

The Tour de CrossRoads bicycle ride will take place Saturday, October 11. The noncompetitive biking event will begin at the church with registration beginning at 9 a.m.

To accommodate everyone, four routes will be offered: a flat 15-mile fun ride, a more challenging 25-mile ride, a 40-mile ride that includes hills and a 62-mile metric century (100 km). Routes will include scenic areas around Tippecanoe and White counties.

Along the routes, there will be refreshment stops and roving trucks to assist riders who may need medical or other assistance. The ride will conclude with lunch and live music.

The cost is \$20 per rider before Sept. 1 and \$25 for those who register after that date. This fee includes a T-shirt. The family rate, which includes two T-shirts, is \$40 before Sept. 1 and \$50 after that date. Tandem teams can register at the individual rate and will receive one shirt. Groups of 10 or more will receive a special rate of \$15 per rider and must pay the registration with one check. Only those who register before Sept. 15 will receive a T-shirt.

Purdue employees who are participating in the Healthy Purdue wellness initiative can earn a purple apple for completion of the ride. For more information on filing a training plan to qualify, go to <http://www.purdue.edu/healthypurdue/Programs/Welcome.html>.

To register, go to <http://www.tourdecrossroads.org> or Active.com at <http://tiny.cc/L245E>.

## Chipping In

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poverty, war or injustice and we can't find anyone else to blame - we blame God. I am frequently amazed by the people who try to trap me with questions like: "You claim your God is all powerful, right? Loving? A just God? Well, then if YOUR God is powerful and just, He COULD stop war, right? So, if He doesn't stop it, either He is weak or uncaring or just DOESN'T exist!" Then they press with an "Am I right?" to drive home what they consider a home run.

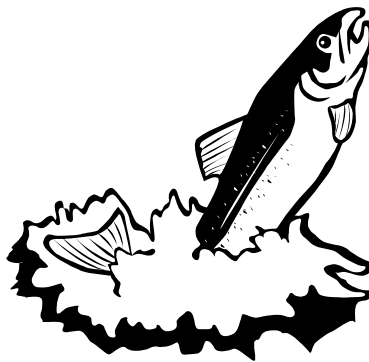
They are disappointed. Maybe the world just isn't the way they expect it to be and someone has to be to blame for all this, right? All people of good conscience are disappointed in our brothers and sisters who choose war over peace, power over empowerment and greed over sharing. And, when we face things like this which are so pervasive, it is tough to not want to take the easy way out - blame God and ask why He doesn't step in and take care of the problem.

I believe, historically, the church has perpetuated this line of thinking by warning the world to change their attitude or God will "smite" them. The problem with that line of thinking is that those that use it have succumbed to the challenges of the world and not the opportunity to make things better. Fact is, God DID step in to take care of the problem. Happened about 2,000 years ago in a little town called Bethlehem; we answered His answer in Jerusalem some 30 years later: "No, thank you! We'll handle it." God gave

us the two-fold answer to the disappointments that still stupidly plague our world: Jesus and OUR Call.

I know I've shifted gears on you, from being disappointed you didn't get that job to being disappointed that our world still has such problems; but though I might be a bit simplistic, I think the response to disappointment is the same - it's just a matter of scale. So, when we find ourselves feeling disappointed, can we find a way to honestly and in a healthy manner, engage the problem and turn it into an opportunity? An opportunity to grow or help someone else grow or to use our energy productively, finding solutions? If we can do that, disappointment is much easier to handle - and it just might make the world a little better place. It's worth a shot!

### Pastor Pat



P.S. This article springs from the fact that my family will be heading for a vacation in Wisconsin on August 29 to, need I say, relax and fish for members of the sub-family of *Salmoninae*: the bull-strong *salmo trutta* (Brown Trout), the delightfully acrobatic *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Rainbow Trout) and my favorite, the small, colorful and elusive *Salvelinus fontinalis* (Brook Trout) - and such outings have been known to cause monsoon rains and severe flooding in the area we're vacationing! I'm just preemptively going through all the stages of disappointment now, in case the weather is rotten, so I don't have to do it there - we're staying in a cabin that is much too small for 4 adults, 2 children, 2 truckloads of fishing gear/luggage AND 4 FULL stages of my disappointment! See you in a week or so!



Elmer the puppet dons his English garb to properly welcome back Pastor Tim from his sabbatical. Thanks to Ted Foster and Michelle Norman for helping to welcome Pastor Tim back.

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**Remember, you can always  
access the CR calendar on the  
Web at [thecrossroads-umc.org](http://thecrossroads-umc.org)**



**See YOU at the CrossRoads**

# CrossRoads in Action

Article by Laurie Klenosky;  
Photos by Debbie Honsowetz

Fifteen students and six adults braved the July heat and winding roads of Appalachia to attend a mission trip in Frakes, Kentucky. We gathered at the Henderson Settlement, which is a part of the Red Bird Mission sponsored by the United Methodist Church. The trip was a wonderful growing experience for both students and adults alike.

Groups that go to the Henderson Settlement typically purchase specific projects to work on during their week. Ours did not.

We simply told the nice people at Henderson that we were there to help where we could, and they put us to work.

We worked on a number of projects during the week. One involved working on an addition to a trailer. We put roofing on, worked on the walls, and helped make an entrance from the trailer into the addition. A second project focused on putting a new toilet and sink back into a bathroom that had been given a new floor by another church. Other projects included helping figure out some electrical issues that one of the residents was having with their new addition and putting drywall on the ceiling in yet another house. A continuous project throughout the week had small groups organizing storerooms of school supplies and personal items or working at the greenhouses doing everything from



Ian Leaird, Bryan Foster and Rosalee Townsley put their roofing skills to work.

moving mums, to fertilizing them, to placing irrigation stakes in the plants.



Matt Paczolt prepares to go white water rafting.

And for a few lucky souls, we helped relocate some reluctant pigs! That is, we moved some expectant mothers away from the rest of the pigs before they gave birth.

In addition to our service projects, we took a day-trip to go white water rafting on the Cumberland River. The scenery, the rapids, the guides, and the mid-day rain shower made it an unforgettable adventure for all!

All in all, it was a wonderful week of service and fun. It was a chance to experience a different part of the country and its culture. But mostly, it was a chance for each of us to be the hands and face of God to someone in need – which is what a mission trip is ultimately all about.

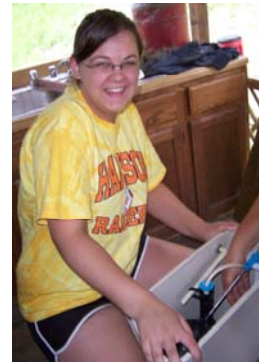
A big thanks to all the students and adults who went on the mission trip this year. In the words of Pastor Pat, "You guys rock!"



## Reflections by Elizabeth Paczolt

This mission trip was my fourth and final mission trip with the Senior High youth. I was part of that first group that went to Memphis with no idea what

was ahead of them. What we got was a great feeling of accomplishment in ourselves... and a bond that has grown stronger through these few short years. In Frakes, Kentucky, we found ourselves helping families with no electricity or no more room for a growing family. We helped water and fertilize 3000 mums to be sold in markets in the surrounding communities this coming year. We made new friends and strengthened bonds between old ones. New jokes were told over and over to make the work go by quicker or just to be funny. Hopefully this trip helped the people within the youth group grow as much as we helped people in Frakes build a better life. Thanks to everyone who made this trip happen... and WORK THAT UPDO.



Elizabeth works on a plumbing project

Participants of the 2008 Christians in Action Henderson Settlement mission trip include:  
Back row, from left: Matt Klenosky, Dan Klenosky, Alex Deason, Matthew Paczolt, Cole Weston, Taylor Honsowetz, Bryan Foster.  
Middle row, from left: Becca Jones, Karissa Weston, Elizabeth Paczolt, Leah Winger, Anne Tally, Rosalee Townsley, Ian Leaird, Ted Foster, Cris Arrowsmith.  
Front Row, from left: Mike Honsowetz, Dan Leaird, Debbie Honsowetz, Laurie Klenosky, Becky Winger

# CrossRoads in Action

Reflections by Debbie Honsowetz

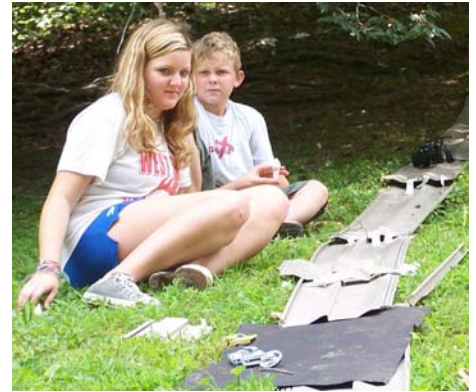
“What I Learned  
in the Mountains of Kentucky”

- ✚ People are people, no matter where or how they live. We all love and care about our families, our kids, our pets, our homes and our God.
- ✚ Teenagers can make a game out of just about anything. For example, they turned what was initially a rather stressful drive up and down a mountain road into a pretend roller coaster, complete with audio enhancements.
- ✚ About that mountain road... no matter how many times and ways I tried, it was impossible for me to make a hairpin turn on that particular narrow mountain road in one shot while driving a 15 passenger van. No coaxing from the teenagers could make it happen.
- ✚ To put my life in the hands of a total stranger on a white water rafting trip and feel completely safe.
- ✚ That I can jump off a 20 ft. high rock into 30 ft. of water and survive. Thanks, Ted, for holding my hand.
- ✚ The face of God can be seen on a teenaged girl while she was playing on the side of a hill with two little boys, some used vinyl siding and a few beat up toy cars.
- ✚ The walk from the house we stayed at to the dining hall never got any easier on Friday than it was on Sunday, but that the majestic view half way there of the mountains and the valley below was worth every step.
- ✚ Our senior high youth have some amazing singing voices; I see a praise team in their futures.
- ✚ We have a hardworking group of youth in our church and no matter what the conditions; they jumped right in and did their part to make someone's life better.
- ✚ God has a plan for every one of us. It may be unexpected, not in Our

plans, or something we could ever imagine. It is after all His plan. We are merely His humble servants and will be rewarded in time for being faithful.

✚ Each and every one of us was rewarded that week in Kentucky. Some received smiles from young children, others, hugs from widows or entire families. Whether it was the people we were with or the beauty of the mountains, each of us has a story and were given a reward.

✚ If you have a moment, ask someone from the senior high mission trip about the week. They have so much to share.



Alex Deason (top photo) works on a ceiling while Karissa Weston (lower photo) has a fun time moving chrysanthemums.

Leah Winger forms a new friendship and a race-track with a young Kentucky boy (right hand column, top photo), while a group of hungry old friends (middle photo) heads down the mountain for dinner.

## Senior High Update

The Senior High youth group will not meet August 31 because of the Labor Day holiday.

Beginning the month of September, we will start a new curriculum - NOOMA (a new Christian perspective, its short films really speak to us). Each NOOMA film touches on issues that we care about, and it comes in a way that fits our world. Everyone is welcome to come and share with us.

We will mix the videos with discussion and activities to drive home the message, whatever that is. We will have food of some kind each week, so come and enjoy.

Sept 7--NOOMA  
Sept 14--NOOMA  
Sept 21--NOOMA  
Sept 28---Camp & Mission Videos