

# The CrossRoads Connection



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

## Like I NEEDED Another Bad Habit..

I need to come clean. I'm hooked. Again.

I didn't mean to – honest! I stayed away from situations that would lead me into another bad habit. I avoided those who did it – even made fun of them. Called them weak and, worse, I intimidated that they were wasting valuable time better spent on pursuing the real thing, suggesting it was peripheral – at best.

I tried.

But, you know how it goes. You see someone doing it, and, somewhere along the way, no one knows exactly how such things happen – but it eats at your brain and you begin to weaken and change your perspective. I tried to avoid those who do it – too busy, I'd say. Habits, especially BAD ones are expensive on more than one level – they consume you.

And then, I avoided it less. I actually began finding situations

chipping in

where people were doing it openly and without inhibitions, and my resolve crumbled. Oh, I told Cathy, I'll just watch the others. I'll not pick up this silly, nasty, time-wasting habit myself.

She said, and I quote: "Un-huh." Now, what kind of encouragement is that? What kind of support does THAT show, I ask you? Well, okay, she knows me too well, and I suppose she saw the inevitable coming before I did – she's much smarter than me when it comes to such things.

So, I confess to you, here and now, openly and with a humble spirit: "I'm a fly tyer." There. I said it! Oh sure, they are ugly, and I'm counting on finding some fish who lack much in the way of visual acuity, BUT I'm sure they're out there! Does this deter me? Nope. Doesn't appear to be slowing me down a bit... Surely, I'll get better!

I have to admit to you that I have grown so much through this new hobby – I'm learning new things AND I am finding out that I have so many new questions to explore. For instance, where, exactly do they raise the pink elk? I've never actually seen a purple or green or lavender deer, but I've got their hair; ergo sum, they MUST exist, right?

I have drawers full (really) of bird feathers in colors I, personally, have never observed in nature. I didn't know turkeys come in blaze orange and in camo – obviously neither color worked well for the turkey.

I have no first hand knowledge of such a thing, but I am guessing that there is an island somewhere, secret and climate-controlled where such animals are raised. (Dean Akridge – is



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.

## Pastor Pat's Chipping In

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Purdue in on this?) On this island, they must do *SOME* research, right? How else would you know if trout or bass actually eat pink elk or green deer? I have no scientific credentials (as you well know), but man, I'd like to be a tester – unless these genetically altered animals are particularly fierce. Come to think of it; I guess I'd be honked off if people kept wanting to snip portions of my hair off or push me into a river to see if fish ate me – so maybe I'll pass on being a tester.

Now, I have tried to justify my new endeavor by suggesting, quite loudly, to Cathy and myself that the flies I tie will be much cheaper and save us money in the long run. We figure that will be in about 2050 – if I tie fast. It's the start-up costs that kill ya. I won't even speculate about what the per fly cost is at this point – and let's not go there – it doesn't really do much for Cathy's mood.

And, I won't suggest this new addict...er, hobby, hasn't been without some tense moments. Like the time my wonderful, loving, nurturing, forgiving, great sense of humored spouse opened the box containing the skins of Hungarian partridge, pheasant and Sharp-tail grouse. She didn't really even say anything but her look of horror spoke volumes.

Now, she DID say some thing's which we won't go into here when she found the aforementioned skins in our freezer in the garage. Some people just can't

accept the concept of concern for others – I mean, she wanted to me to make *SURE* there were no bugs in the skins before I brought them into the house didn't she? How better to do that than storing them in below freezing conditions? And, for Pete's sake, she doesn't tell me when she puts things in the freezer, so why in the world would I tell her? The simplest logic escapes some people!

Now, how would someone with 10 thumbs tie flies? Carefully. Some of the hooks are not much bigger than a pencil lead – I can't even *SEE* the darned things without major magnification. If you happen to be walking along a local stream, and you see an older, fat guy who looks like he has insect-like bulging eyes; that's just me with all my glasses and flip down magnifier lenses, trying to tie on flies too small for me to see unaided.

Actually, I've found fly tying to be very relaxing, and I usually end my day with some quiet music and tying up some new fly or other. If you look at the component parts, even during the stages of construction, they often don't look like they belong together. It's a very deliberate discipline that I find parallels my faith life reasonably closely.

Unlike flies, you can't buy faith; but *LIKE* flies, if you let someone else do the work for you, you just won't

understand how it's put together or why/how it works. If you skip any steps in the construction, you'll end up with something, but will it be something that works? Probably not. The recipes for flies and for faith have been carefully crafted down through the centuries by people who notice the fine details and get results.

For instance, as I prepare my Bible Intro lesson for tomorrow's Confirmation experience, I realize that I would no more try to skip spending time reading my Bible than I would try to fish with a fly with no hook – what's the point? If my purpose is to catch fish – I need a hook. If my purpose is to grow closer to Jesus today than I was yesterday (and it is), then how can I learn about Him without spending time with Him in the Word, in prayer and learning/sharing with great people like our Confirmands and you?

My tying flies is another level of maturity in me becoming a more complete angler. My paying attention to the details of my faith adds to my maturity in my faith as well. So, what detail of your faith is it time for you to make your next faith-habit?

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go take some things out of the freezer before Cathy gets home from the grocery store...

In Christ,

*Pastor Pat*

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



**See YOU at the CrossRoads**

## Young Adult Outing



On Saturday, February 7, the Young Adults will be venturing to Indianapolis to check out the Eiteljorg and State museums. Afterwards we will enjoy some fine cuisine at a local restaurant.

We will be leaving from St. Andrew at 11:00 am so stop on by if you would like to join us.

For more information on the young adult social group, contact Monica Hoover, [monicasusan78@yahoo.com](mailto:monicasusan78@yahoo.com)

## Tutoring Program Back in Action!

Tutoring is now underway! We meet every Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. I am thankful for such a great group of volunteer tutors.

Tutoring is free and available to all school children in the community.

Teachers in the congregation—please let your students know about this great opportunity. I can provide you with a paragraph to insert in your school newsletters, if you would like.

Any questions, please call me (Deanna Campbell) at 567-5022, or e-mail at [dcyrcampbell@comcast.net](mailto:dcyrcampbell@comcast.net).



# THANK YOU!!!!!!

The CrossRoads Cares Ministry would like to thank the congregation for their support of this fund raiser. It was a huge success, raising over \$1,000 for youth and young adults to participate in mission experiences. We would also like to express sincere appreciation to Tom Paczolt for all his work to provide the smoked pulled pork. A great big thank you to all the volunteers who helped on Friday and Saturday evenings to pull the meat and package it up for the orders taken.

Your support of CrossRoads Cares is greatly appreciated!

# Junior High Update

## Teens on a Mission

By Dana Kirkwood

*And the King shall answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it to me.~  
**Matthew 25:40***

As you are probably aware, the Steelers pulled out a win over the Arizona Cardinals during the Super Bowl. Well, St. Andrew's Junior High students pulled out a win for our S-O-U-P-E-R Bowl (of Caring).

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a grassroots, faith-based crusade against hunger. By choosing to participate, Teens on A Mission and St. Andrew Junior High Sunday School joined other churches, schools, organizations and individuals across the country to fight hunger and poverty by collecting dollars in soup pots on February 1, 2009. What we collected stayed in the Greater Lafayette community through Church Women United Food Pantry to help fight local hunger.

Thanks to the great participation by our youth and the generous members of St. Andrew, we raised \$765.40 and collected 90 food items. These final numbers surpassed our original goals of \$400 and 50 food items. The junior high leadership wants to thank Saint Andrew's congregation and thank the Junior High students that not only spent Sunday morning collecting for this wonderful cause but spent the entire day in service to our church.

First Service Volunteers: Emily Townsley, Katie Townsley, Andrew Brainard, Markie Soposky, Zach Grundy, Adam Bess, Garrett Kirkwood, Brie Mitchell, Evan Berkey, and Stephen Borders.

Second Service Volunteers: Elizabeth Downard, Abby Burchill, Nick Cutter, Colleen Downard, Alex Foster, Maclaine Leaird, Ben Tally, Garrett Kirkwood, Lauren Weston, Megan Richason, Matt Reif, and Jacob Deason.

## February Junior High Events

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

February 6

7p Set Up for Scrapbooking (this is an excellent way to help earn your way on the mission trip!)

February 8

10a Sunday School  
4:30p Confirmation Class  
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

February 15

10a Sunday School  
4:30p Confirmation Class  
6p T.O.M., The Intersection  
6p Summer Camp/Mission Trip Organizational meeting, The Great Room

February 22

10a Sunday School  
4:30p Confirmation Class  
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

## HEY CURRENT 8TH GRADERS! (AND PARENTS...)

An informational meeting will be held for students and parents on Sunday, February 15 at 6 p.m. in the Great Room regarding summer camp/mission trip for Senior High youth this summer. 8th graders.....this includes YOU!

Come hear about something different this year - a camp run by Student Life (a Christian organization that helps teens know Christ) with a mission experience component to it. The camp includes staying in the dorms at a Christian College, with meals provided by their staff. A worship leader and band lead the experience. Other youth groups will be there as well, allowing the attendees to interact with Christian peers.

If you are interested in being part of the summer mission trip/summer camp, come to the meeting on February 15 to hear more.