

The CrossRoads Connection



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

I Love a Mystery!

I have a friend who I know that I know but I'm not sure who it is right now. Did that make sense? Probably not.

Okay, let me try again. Someone left a unique gift on my desk this past Sunday and didn't bother leaving a note or a name. Now, I know I know this person. I mean, it would make sense that they are a part of our community of faith, so I pretty much am sure to know them, right? So, I know that I know this person, and I pretty much consider all of us as friends – I just didn't see her/him place it on my desk, so I'm not sure. Does that make sense?

I'm not positive who it was, but I do have one clue, and I'll get to that in a moment.

First, let me tell you what I got. This quite unique gift, *I'm guessing*, was given to me as a follow-up to my fly-tying front

chipping in

page article in the last newsletter. Let me see if I can describe the mystery gift for you – and I invite you to drop by my office to take a look at it yourself. It is sitting on my desk, just to the right of my name plate. I'll bet you don't have one on your desk!

Anyway, it has a rounded wooden base, walnut, I think – this is my clue. More about this in a moment. There is a bright pink piece of paper glued to the base that says: "Blessed are the tiers of flies for theirs is the kingdom of fishing." Now, I LIKE that!

Now, it gets a bit, um, different. Not bad different, just, well, different – you just have to see it. There is a hole drilled in the wooden base and a big honkin' brown feather is stuck in it. I'm guessing a turkey feather, but I could be wrong. Now, this feather is not unadorned!

No! It has a copper/brass metal swivel on it and some very attractive plastic streamers, yellow and pink, tied to the base of the feather with yellow and pink thread.

Now, who do you think would leave such a gift – which, by the way, I love? I have two clues as to the identity of such a character – we'll see how good a detective I am. I won't mention a name, BUT I'm thinking he'll know who I'm referring to – and that I'm on to him.



Pat Sleeth is pastor to the CrossRoads community.

The first clue is his sense of humor. IF it's who I'm thinking of, he has a twinkle in his eye as he responds with a hearty "No!" to my pretty much weekly question: "Are you staying out of trouble?" I usually respond: "Good. I like to see consistency in my friends!" He also likes to pull my chain a bit, all

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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

in good fun. So, if it was him, he is most capable of teasing me just a bit on my fly fishing with this home-made "fly."

The second clue, as I've alluded to, is the base. A few years back, a friend of mine made me a small wooden cross for my desk, mounted on a wooden, rounded base that is very similar in design as the one holding up my newest "fly." I'm no Sherlock Holmes, but I think you've been made my friend! Now, I could be wrong, but I don't think so. Anyway, until you come clean, I won't know – but let me say whoever did this: "Thank you!" I had a nice chuckle out of it when I came into my office after first service on Sunday; and I'm still chuckling as I write this. Good one!

I was blessed three times through this unique gift.

First, though you didn't know it, I was carrying a bit of a burden last Sunday. Nothing big, just one of those small things that nags at you and keeps you from really being in a good mood and enjoying the moment – until I saw this on my desk.

The second blessing made me pause and think about the many friends we (my family and me) have in this congregation. What a great, friendly community of faith. We laugh together and love together and show our neighbors that when church is done right it is anything but dry and stuffy –

that just isn't us, is it? Oh, sure; like any family we may not always agree on everything but that's okay, isn't it? We see eye to eye on most things and certainly on the biggest things and, whatever you have to say about us, we aren't boring!

So, thank you for the reminder that I belong to such a great and very fun family.

And, the third blessing, and one that is not a small one – you gave me an article for this newsletter! You rock!

You gave me a great way to remember why I love this church so much and an opportunity to thank this wonderful congregation for all the many gifts you have given my family through the years, the gifts of love, laughter, and your faithful prayers – and the mystery gifts of hats, crosses, thank you cards and turkey feather "flies" with no names attached. But, I know who you are. You are Jesus, with a big grin and a hug and a pat on the back – or a kick in the tail feathers when I need that – and I need both.

Thank you.

Pastor Pat



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



February / March Sr High Events

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

February 22

10a Sunday School
6p Youth Group

February 28

6:45a Leave for Skiing

March 1

10a Sunday School
Noon Return from Skiing
6p Youth Group

March 8

10a Sunday School
6p Youth Group

March 15

10a Sunday School
6p Youth Group

March 22

10a Sunday School
6p Youth Group

March 28

10a Sunday School
6p Youth Group

See YOU at the CrossRoads

Senior High Update

LET'S GO SKIING!



Senior High Ski Trip

All students in grades 9-12 are invited to join us on February 28 - March 1 for an overnight ski trip to Timber Ridge in Kalamazoo, MI! We will meet at the church at 6:45am on Saturday. We will ski the day away, then return to a Red Roof Inn in Kalamazoo for pizza and fun! After breakfast together on Sunday, we will travel back home, arriving at church by noon.

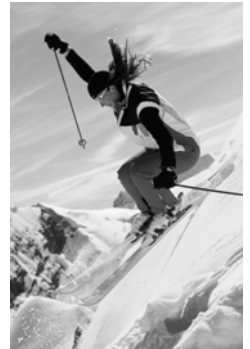
The deadline for signing up and paying is this Sunday, February

22. The cost of the trip is \$70 (unless we have 15 or more skiers, then it is only \$60). Price includes travel up and back, lift ticket, ski rental, hotel and pizza on Saturday night. Travel meals (Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast) are not included. You can either pack a lunch or bring money. Snowboard rental will also cost extra.

We'll need your payment of \$70 no later than this Sunday. If we have 15 sign up, we will refund you \$10 (you can trust us). Before we leave, we will also need a release form signed by a parent. We'll have those forms for you this Sunday.

If cold weather and good snow conditions do not last, we will make the call a few days before the trip, and all money will be refunded.

Please call or email Roland Winger (418-3797 - roland.winger@gmail.com) if you have questions.



YOUTH GROUP UPDATE: A lot is going on in Senior High youth group these days. We had a very successful Super Bowl Party at the church. As mentioned above, the group will be headed out February 28 through March 1 to Michigan for a day of skiing. AND, we had a meeting last Sunday about our upcoming Summer Mission Trip to Lookout Mountain, Ga. Please be sure to contact me if you are interested in the mission trip, and contact Roland Winger ASAP about the ski trip.

Our Senior High group is also involved during our meeting time in a study that discusses issues that our youth have; the first one we talked about dealt with choosing faith. It is easy to follow Facebook or sports, but is it as important as following your faith? Is it easy for our youth to choose faith and fit in with their friends? There are no easy answers and we allow the youth to talk openly and say what they feel with no judgment attached. Some upcoming topics include peer pressure, loneliness, what is your purpose and a few others. Anyone is welcome; we only ask that you come with an open heart.

— Tom Arrowsmith

simply people puppet troupe news

By Ted Foster

Greetings all! Usually I use this humble forum to let you know what your puppet ministry is up to or to share what some of the reactions are when the Spirit uses us to affect people. But this month I am here to ask for some help.

It has to do with our practices. When doing it properly, performing puppeteers do all of their work well above their head, and getting a good look at what is happening is, at best, problematic. We try to provide feedback through others to help make the performance look right, but what would be ideal would be a way that our performers could see what they are doing in real time.

We have many talents on our team. All tend to do very well at performing, and I do well at directing as well. We have others who excel at voice acting, writing, and more. But, one area we (currently) have no expertise is in video. So that is where you come in. What we are looking for is someone who can help us acquire and use a small video system that would consist of a tripod mounted camera and one to two small monitors that could be put behind the stage at eye level where the puppeteers can see their work. This tool will allow the group to practice working off of each other, work on their acting skills, and maneuver around the stage better as well.



That's it in a nutshell. If you feel called to help, please feel free to contact me at 420-0452. Thanks also to our entire congregation for your constant support! You make everything we do worthwhile.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2009

**CrossRoads want to celebrate your
success and achievements!**

**If you will be earning a post high school degree
or certificate at any time this year we want to know.**

**There will be a luncheon for you and your families
on Sunday April 19th after second service.**

**To attend, please contact Sarah Vallier
at 474-1895 or sjvallier@hotmail.com**