

The CrossRoads Connection



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

Never Too Old to Stop Learning...

By Marilyn Foster

Quick! Recite the Apostles Creed. For most of us, we learned the Apostles Creed during confirmation class. As you are reading this, we have some 30 youth of our congregation going through classes that are similar to the ones that you and I went through before we were confirmed. And in just a few weeks, many of these youth will make the decision to join St. Andrew United Methodist Church. What an exciting time!

And it's a busy time, too. Pastor Tim and Pastor Pat prepare lessons each week; the kids do their own

reading and homework; parents offer support, encouragement and dialogue about Jesus Christ; and mentors meet with their mentees to share their path to Christ and surround the mentees with prayer.

chipping in

Other behind-the scenes folks are providing dinner each week, distributing lessons, and sharing their time during the class. By rough estimation, there are over 100 people every week doing something for confirmation class. And that doesn't include all the people in the congregation that are lifting up the class in their prayers and asking God to open up the hearts and minds of our youth to the teachings of Jesus.

Indeed, what an exciting time for our youth and for St. Andrew.

One of the recent homework assignments for our confirmands dealt with decision-making and making the right choices. Scenarios were presented, and the students talked with their parents and mentors about the possible choices for each situation. What a great growing opportunity! The confirmands were presented with a "decision-making checklist" that, in my opinion, should be distributed

worldwide to help youth and adults alike in thinking through their choices. This checklist included the "any idiot rule," in which one is encouraged to exercise common sense in their choices and "truthful consequences," whereby one is asked to ponder where in all likelihood the action is going to lead. But my favorite, by far, is the "Grandma is Watching You" principle, and it goes like this — *Would you do what you were thinking of doing in front of your grandma? If what you are doing was made public knowledge, would you still do it?*

Wow! What great questions for us all to ponder.

The "grandma" in my case is actually my daddy. His name is Charlie Low, and I respect him and his opinions immensely. When I am faced with a difficult situation, I try to think about how daddy would handle it as I am

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Ed. Note: Pastor Pat was called out of the office earlier this week. His regular column will return next newsletter.

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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making my decisions. Now don't get me wrong...I didn't ALWAYS take my dad (or his opinions) into consideration, and that is usually when I made the poorest of choices! When I was a teenager – (yes, Bryan, I was once a teenager) – I thought my dad (and mom) were the most antiquated folks ever created. I didn't think they knew much of anything, and they certainly didn't understand being a teenager in the early 80s. Sadly, I didn't show them the respect I should have, nor did I respect their decisions much at all. And my choices reflected that. Fast forward 30 years to my life now, wife and stepmother, and I realize that dad (and mom) weren't so antiquated after all. Now what is it they say about hindsight?...

Along the same lines, when it comes to how I treat people, I try to treat them how I want my dad to be treated – with courtesy and respect. I am reminded of an incident that occurred when I worked for my hometown newspaper many, many years ago. I worked in the circulation department and took calls from people who wanted to subscribe to the newspaper or who didn't receive their paper that day for some reason. Anyway, I took a call early one morning from a man who was very upset because he hadn't received his newspaper that morning. He was very angry and very rude, and the full force of that anger was directed at me. Even to this day, I remember the tone of his voice and the sheer ugliness of his words. Of course, I apologized to him and told him that I would be happy to send someone out with a paper immediately. But that really wasn't good enough for him, and he continued berating me and the entire newspaper staff for him not getting a newspaper that morning. I was finally able to get a word in edgewise and asked him for his name so that I could 'look him up in the system' and get a newspaper out to him. My jaw dropped when he said his name because I recognized him to be a member and leader of my hometown church.

This man, an active participant in church and a pillar of society, was berating this anonymous minimum-wage person on the other end of the phone line. What really happened to set that gentleman off that morning? Perhaps his alarm failed to go off, or maybe he had an argument with his wife, or maybe the dog had spent the night chewing on his favorite pair of shoes. I just can't know. But I can't believe he would have acted the way he did had he been doing that in front of his grandma.

The thing is, we do things in front of Jesus every day that maybe aren't the best decisions. But, like grandma, Jesus is encouraging us to make the right choices as we go through our day. Just like grandma, He wants us to exercise common sense and consider the global consequences to our actions. Isn't it great that He is on our side?



Confessions of a First Time Snow-Skier

By Christopher Norris

Last weekend, the senior high youth group went to Michigan to go snow skiing. Ian Leaird, Bryan Foster, Alex Deason, Taylor Honsowetz, Roland Winger, Leah Winger, Matt Klenosky and Dave Klenosky took off before dawn and spent the ride up playing cards. When we got there, we stopped at the hotel to drop our things off. Finally, we hit the slopes.

My "first lesson" was going on the bunny hill. Once I realized I could do it, I was off to the other slopes. My favorite slope was the Black Diamond. I managed it well, but stopping was an issue. This slope was the steepest and the fastest. Some funny moments were when Ian and I collided. It was even funnier that Ian fell down before the new guy... me! And, when the lifts were stopped, we really enjoyed making them swing!

Once we returned to the hotel, we spent the evening playing games in our room. It was a lot of fun. On the way home, we stopped off for breakfast at a restaurant. Oddly enough, there were two wild turkeys that had landed randomly on a car. It was hysterical to see Taylor chasing them around, until he realized he was still sore from the skiing.

The ski trip was a great way for us to spend time together and enjoy new experiences. I can't wait to do it again.



Young Adult Sunday Cafe

The Young Adult Sunday Café continues to be held on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. This class is for anyone who considers themselves a young adult (most are in their 20's and 30's), whether single, engaged, married and/or parenting. We usually start with some community time and breakfast munchies, then dig into our lesson of the week.

Over the last couple of months, we completed a series we called Promises, Promises, where we studied covenants, vows and other promises found in scripture. This month we are doing a study on What Do You Want to Be as You Grow UP, in which we are looking at being and becoming servants of Christ. To give you an idea of what we actually study and discuss, below are follow-up blurbs from one of the studies from each series . . .

. . . we continued our series on Promises, Promises with the study "Fill 'Er Up!" In this study we looked at the Promise of the Holy Spirit with a focus on being filled with the Holy Spirit. We looked at a number of passages from scripture that referenced being "filled with" or "full of" the Holy Spirit and noted similarities among them. One noteworthy similarity was that in every instance being filled with or full of the Holy Spirit was recognizable to others. Some outward appearance, attitude or behavior had to have been apparent and distinctive for others to describe someone as filled with or full of the Holy Spirit. How does that happen? Well, it seems that the process of filling first requires space. If we are already full of other stuff (fear, anger, pride, ambition, sorrow, jealousy, substances, etc), it is likely that we don't have or are not making the room to be filled with the H.S., and we therefore allow the fullness of that other stuff to influence our actions and behavior. I think what we're talking about here is displacement theory. To make room for God the H.S, we have to rid ourselves of this other stuff. To rid ourselves of this other stuff, we have to replace it with God through our relationship with Jesus Christ. To do this, we have to follow the words in Ephesians "Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. *Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him.*" (Eph. 5:18 (Message translation)) The "huge draughts" is the part I like best! From one "drinking" buddy to another, see you Sunday!

. . . we started a new study last Sunday – "What Do You Want to Be As You Grow Up?" And since we ALL know the obvious answer is "A Servant of Christ," our study is on just that, what it means to be a servant of Christ. In particular, last Sunday, we studied what it looks like to be a "good and faithful servant," and what it doesn't look like, by unpacking the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). One key take-away was that a faithful servant is one who uses all of what is placed in his trust by his master to benefit his master. The challenge for each of us to think about is two-fold – What (gifts, talents, treasures, responsibilities, etc.) has God entrusted me with? And, am I using it to benefit Him - right now?

We are having a great time at the Café and love spending the time with God and with each other. Each lesson stands on its own and there is always room for more – so please join us on any Sunday morning.

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



See YOU at the CrossRoads

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS (POST-HIGH SCHOOL / 20 & 30 SOMETHINGS!) FOR THE SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP!!!

This year's trip promises to be an extraordinary experience for all.

We will be leaving on Saturday, March 14 for Bristol, TN and returning on either Wednesday, March 18 (for those who can only stay a partial week) or Friday, March 20. We will be staying in a lodge at River's Way Adventure Center (www.riversway.org). Reserved "adventure" activities include the high ropes course and caving at nearby caves. The "adventure" stuff is planned for Wednesday. The other days we will be doing project work (painting, facility repairs) for a confidential emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence.

The per person cost is only \$150.00!! Please come with us!!! For anyone who is considering participating, even if you remain undecided, please let Monica Arrowsmith or Pastor Pat know by Sunday, March 8, 2009. Remember, your friends are welcome too!

Junior High Update

Teens On A Mission (T.O.M.) Annual Mission Trip w/ Mission Indy April 18 – April 19, 2009

The junior high youth group will head to Indianapolis to work on different projects set up for us through Mission Indy. We will leave St. Andrew United Methodist Church at 6:45am and return on Sunday after church. This is an amazing experience for our youth and volunteers. It is hard to imagine our teens willingly participating in hard work, but not only do they step up and participate, they walk away with a renewed vision of Christ's love for them and others.

Mission Indy is an urban mission group that is dedicated to helping Christians serve others. Their hope is that by teaching our youth on what mission work means, the youth will take that information and apply it in their own communities.

The cost of this trip is \$50 per person but the youth have had different opportunities over the last few months to bring that cost down by participating in different fundraising projects. Additionally, Markie Soposky wrote a grant for funding from the Tippecanoe County Drug Task Force on behalf of the group. We are hoping to provide the trip free of cost to the families, so watch for other opportunities to help support these kids and their mission experience. Additionally, we are asking kids to commit to this event with a \$10.00 deposit. This money will be used to purchase lunches for the children on our way back to the Lafayette area.

Parental consent forms will be mailed out via email and snail mail this week. If you did not get one, there will be copies in the office. Consent forms are due back by March 29, 2009.

Basic Schedule (times may vary some)

April 18

- 6:30am – arrive at St. Andrew
- 6:45am – leave St. Andrew United Methodist Church
- 8:15am – arrive at Mission Indy / Englewood Christian Church
- 9:00am – arrive at the different worksites
- 4:00pm – arrive back to Englewood Christian Church
- 4:00pm – 5:30pm: clean up / re-organize for dinner
- 5:30pm – dinner
- 6:00 – 10:00 – planned lesson and snack
- 10:00 – sleep (I promise you, they will be tired!)

April 19

- 6:30am – awake to clean up the building and prepare for breakfast
- 7:00am – breakfast
- 8:00am – attend church services and then head home



If you have any questions regarding this trip, please contact Dana Kirkwood.