

The CrossRoads Connection



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

The Best Kept "Secret" at St. Andrew

This week I'd very much like to share a "secret" with you. There are things that shouldn't be shared, for a variety of reasons. Either privacy issues are at play or perhaps something might even become safety concerns if they became common knowledge. And, then, of course there is information that is appropriate to share with those we are in close relationship with – and no one else.

But then, there are those things which we try to share but for some reason, somehow, no matter what we say, no one gets the information. I call these unintentional or accidental secrets.

Let me give you an example. Did you know St. Andrew has a mid-week worship (MWS) experience? Yes, we have a worship option beyond just Sunday morning. And, did you know that this service IS for you? Now, you might ask, "When did we start this?" The answer might surprise you: 7 years ago.

Now, the common perception is that this service is only for young people. And, in the beginning, we

did cater more to college students, but, in the past few years, we have found ourselves worshipping with more 30's, 40's and 50-somethings and beyond – but the perception lingers: "It's not for me. It's just for the kids."

Not so.

Our Mid-Week Service (the service formerly known as The Fusion) has been around for 7 years, and we have grown and changed and developed just like you might imagine any worship service would do. Elements of music and creative expression might change based on personnel coming and going, but our vision for this service is still going strong.

In case you've never been to a MWS (Mid-Week Service), let me share the experience with you.

The service itself begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Intersection, though we invite anyone who might want to brown-bag it to join us at 6:30 for a community meal.

The set-up is completely different than what you'd expect on Sunday morning – and this is off-putting to

some people. If you've never been in the Intersection, we have a beautiful and very functional coffee bar area – and we use it! When you first get there you'll notice there is coffee brewing and hot water for tea and snacks on the coffee bar. These are for you. Grab a cup of coffee or tea or a bottled water and find a table, preferably one with people already sitting there – you'll want a table with other people for the discussion that comes later (each table becomes a small group).

At 7:00 p.m. someone from the Worship Team will greet you, and we'll spend the first 20 minutes or so of the service singing together which helps us do two things: warm up and open up! Worship is about praising God and giving HIM thanks

for what He's been doing in our lives. It's how a grateful people say thanks to God in a particular way. The MWS is our particular way.

When we finish with the music set, we shift gears a bit, relax and spend some time in prayer together – as much time as we need. Some evenings, its 5 minutes but



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.

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other evenings when we have things that need to be shared, burdens that need to be lifted or laid down and celebrations that are just too good not to share, we may spend 30 minutes (or more) in prayer.

Then we move into our teaching time. No sermon. Sorry. I (Pastor Pat) or another team member will introduce a theme for the evening – maybe through drama or video or, on special evenings, Simply People Puppet Troupe introduces the theme for us. In your bulletin for the evening you'll find a series of questions around our topic that can be used to spur discussion at your table. Have you ever been to a worship service where you wanted to share a thought or idea about a particular topic? Here's your chance. We WANT to hear what you have to say – we want to grow together through the combined wisdom of those that gather.

Now, if you are bashful or introverted, that's okay. You are free to participate in the discussion as much or as little as you are comfortable. After we spend time in our small groups, I (Pastor Pat) will call us back together and we'll "debrief" our discussion and wrap it up. We'll close with prayer and another song (or two).

The typical service times are from 7 p.m. to not later than 8:30 – sometimes it is hard to end these discussions!

We know this service isn't for everyone. Currently, we offer childcare for little ones, but we know this might not be the perfect time for those with small children. It is the perfect time for those who want to come home from work, have dinner, relax for a bit and then come to a worship service. As we grow, if the need arises, we would LOVE to offer Christian Education options for younger

children, but right now we only offer child care.

You need to hear this: This service is intentionally different than our Sunday morning services. We offer both traditional and contemporary services on Sunday morning that we love and think we do a pretty good job with, so we didn't feel the need to try to duplicate those. We quite deliberately wanted this service to be more intimate, deeper and more informal. We wanted to put a premium on fellowship and growing in relationship with each other AND with God. Way back in the beginning, I remember a team member saying "I think God wants this to be a disciplining service." I think they meant a service with give and take, a safe place to ask tough questions and to grow in faith. And, this has been what we've tried to do.

Sometimes you'll hear The Fusion mentioned, think "Mid-Week Service" and know that it is not, NOT, **NOT** only for kids. Like any worship experience, it is open to all

who seek to worship and grow in their faith.

We're looking to "seed" this service and grow it. Currently, you might well come to a MWS and find any number from a dozen to 50 people worshipping and this is wonderful, BUT we believe God is calling us to outgrow the Intersection, to move into the Great Room. Maybe God is calling you to come, be a part of this "secret" service on Wednesday evenings.

Come grow with us!

Pastor Pat

Mark Your Calendar!

Mid-Week Service Kick-Off
August 26
7:00 p.m.

Young Adult Activities

On Saturday, August 29, the young adults, those in their 20s through 40s, are going to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Many are planning to see the Harry Potter memorabilia exhibit (<http://www.msichicago.org/whats-here/exhibits/harry-potter/>). General admission is \$13, with the exhibit the cost is \$26. Please let Monica Hoover know if you are interested in going or would like more information. monicasusan78@yahoo.com, 586-4788.

It's Time for Tutoring...

Our church provides tutoring for local school children who need help with homework. Tutoring will begin on September 15 and continue through the school year each Tuesday night from 7-8:15 pm. The children attend on a drop-in basis as frequently as they (or their parents) would like. Last semester we had an average of 8 kids each Tuesday evening. Most of the kids are in Elementary school, but some are from Middle and High School. The towns of Lafayette, West Lafayette, Brookston, and Battle Ground were all represented.

Tutor volunteers are needed to make this program a success. Adults and high school age kids are welcome to tutor. No previous experience is necessary! Anyone interested in volunteering, please come to a brief organizational meeting on Tuesday, August 25 at 7pm in the CrossRoads Intersection room. For more information, please contact the tutoring coordinator, Deanna Campbell, at 567-5022 or dcyrcampbell@comcast.net.

Senior High Update

First I would like to clear up some confusion that some people have had regarding where the mission trip took place. We stayed at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, GA but did our mission work in Chattanooga, TN. Lookout Mountain has both a TN and GA address. To get from the college in GA to the bottom of the Mountain you pass thru TN and GA numerous times.



The mission trip was truly an awesome event that totally changed lives in our youth group. Here are some quotes straight from kids:

- " I never have had to work this hard in my life"
- " I truly feel blessed for what I have after seeing people have to live here, glad I could help"
- " I never knew so many people could & would pray for me, I am in shock "
- " This has been the best week of my life"
- " I never knew my bible had a study guide"
- " I can't believe I stood in line 15 minutes to go to a worship service and it was worth it "
- " I was able to give my sins to God and now feel better than I have in a long time "



Let me give you some highlights from the week:

Sunday we arrived in the area and went to my brother's house and swam, rode bikes, etc...

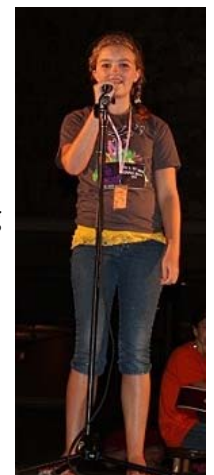
Monday we took everyone on the incline railway and hiked through an old Civil war battlefield in the morning. In the afternoon we checked into the college, had a worship service, a bible study and a debriefing of our time together.

Tuesday we had reflection time, which was a half hour of reading ones bible or meditating or writing in a journal. We did this every morning of our trip. We had morning worship, then headed to the mission site where we worked at clearing brush at a Children's home. The Home is home to nearly 50 youth who have been abused or neglected. The land we were clearing was to be a future home of a ropes course and a camping site for both their kids and church groups. The land had had in the past vagrants and homeless people living in it and the Home didn't want that so near to the kids at their facility. We had our kids using chain saws, weed whackers, a chipper and their own hands as ways to clear the area. I think our kids now understand the adage "Mission work is not doing what you want to do, but doing what needs to be done." After finishing our work for the day, we headed back to the college for some free time and dinner. After dinner was bible study and then later in the evening a worship service that lasted about 2 hours. Then debriefing followed by free time until lights out at 11:30 pm...

Wednesday & Thursday followed the same script as Tuesday, but here are some highlights from each day.

Wednesday --- Emily Townsley tried out and made the camp talent show. That night she sang a Casting Crowns song a cappella in front of about 300 or so campers. She truly blessed us all with her singing. We also had an accidental fire at the worksite, involving the woodchips. Many of our youth thought it was like the burning bush type of moment.

Thursday --- both the worship leader and the camp speaker (the preacher) came and visited the kids at the mission site. Sam Bhatt and Dave Odom were big hit with the kids all week long, and it was really special to see our kids interact with both of them up close and



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personal. Free time had 5 youth paintballing, 7 went to a Q&A with Sam and David, 1 went to a tech gathering and another went to how to read your bible better.

The worship Thursday night was powerful, Sam discussed the crucifixion of Jesus and had 2 full size crosses in the church. He asked the kids if they had anything that was holding them back. If they did they were to come up and write them down on an index card and then using a hammer and a nail, nail it into the cross and let God take that issue away from them. As you can imagine, it was a powerful scene watching kids go up and only hearing the sounds of nails going into wood. There was a lot more to the night: the music was truly amazing, ask a Senior higher about it. I am not giving the night justice; it was amazing.

At the debriefing that night we talked about being servants of God's, and we washed each others hands. It was a very solemn event, and the youth treated it as such. No one laughed or joked at all.

The last day we cleaned our rooms, had a final worship service and headed home. We did stop at the Rock City gift shop for some bird houses before leaving the Mountain.

One last note, I would like to thank all our congregants who participated in our Salvation by Vibration program. The kids were truly touched. They could not believe how many people were praying for them, and it meant the world to me and to them. I would also like to thank everyone who helped make this experience a reality for our youth. If you helped out financially or through prayer -- Thank You so much...I would also like to thank Debbie Honsowetz and Monica Arrowsmith who took time out of their busy lives to accompany us on this trip. It would not have been successful without them. If you want to learn more about our experience, I hope you will come to the Intersection on Sept 27 at 6 p.m. for a video presentation of our trip. The youth will talk about their experiences, and you can ask them any questions you might have. There are also pictures on Facebook of the whole trip, just go to Debbie's site to see them.

Thank You and God Bless,
Tom Arrowsmith

Aug. / Sept. Junior High Events

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

August 16

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

August 23

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

August 30

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

September 6

10a Sunday School

LABOR DAY, No T.O.M.

