

Year 7
Issue 17

The CrossRoads Connection



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

Furthering our Commitment to CrossRoads

Well, it is very clear from the cars in the parking lot every evening at the church, that the summer is over and St. Andrew is back in full swing! This most definitely applies to CrossRoads as well. The number of people in ministry within the CrossRoads is pretty amazing. As I think of the ministries that are under the umbrella of Cross Roads

- BreakAway
- Junior High Sunday School
- Junior High Youth Group
- Senior High Sunday School
- Senior High Youth Group
- Young Adult Sunday School
- Young Adult Fellowship Group
- Mid Week Service
- Waiting 2 Wake
- Simply People Puppet Troupe
- CR Tutoring
- CR Prayer Partners
- CR Cares

- CR Caterers
- CR Advisory Board
- CR Technical Support Team
- CR Newsletter
- CR Leaders' Study

(and these just off the top of my head (my apologies if I forgot any)) and the many people who give of their time and talent and even treasures as they serve (daily, weekly, for years at a time and for special events too!) to achieve the mission of CrossRoads, I am humbled. The mission of CR is to encourage youth and young adults to develop a genuine faith in Jesus Christ, to encourage them to grow as lifelong disciples, and to equip them to minister to others for the sake of the world.

At our first CAB meeting of this school year, we reviewed this mission within the context of the leaders' role. How do we as leaders best encourage genuine faith and life-

chipping in

long discipleship? How do we best equip our youth and young adults to minister to others? In addition to prayer, one obvious answer is to continue to develop our own genuine faith, to continue our own growth as a lifelong disciple, to minister to others. We know that doing all these things is critical (and a joy) because we can't lead somewhere where we are not headed ourselves. We also know that our kids, our youth and young adults, need to be aware of our personal commitment to our growing and deepening faith, too. We need to be visible and vocal in our commitment. But we know that this is not always easy to do and many of us do not have as much comfort with this as we would like. So, the great news is that the priority for CrossRoads this year will be on

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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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improving our own ability to share our faith, to gain comfort in talking about the difference Jesus makes in our lives and the lives of others, and to learn how to show that and share that in many settings, including those with our kids.

One way we are going to do this is to continue our shepherding/ small group model of ministry in which each CR meeting, event, etc. includes prayer, scripture and some discussion of the selected text. We believe that as we pray through, think through and talk through scripture in the small group setting, we will not only grow in our faith but also get more comfortable sharing it – first with those in the small group, then others as the circle widens.

Another way we hope to strengthen our faith sharing is that we are going to bring in a speaker at the end of October to hold a workshop/mini-retreat on Faith Sharing. Everyone will be welcome and more information will be provided soon! Cross-Roads is always looking for more volunteers. Each of the ministries listed above is growing and our youth and young adults are an absolute blast to work with and get to know. If you would like to be involved with one of the CR ministries or have a new ministry you would like to begin

with us, please contact Pat Sleeth (Pastor to the CR Community) or Monica Arrowsmith (President, CrossRoads Advisory Board). We will be happy to hook you up (no fishing pun intended!).

- *Monica*

CrossRoads in Action...



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



Missions Committee needs YOUR help!

Do you have a gently used winter coat that you will be replacing this year? The Missions Committee is collecting winter coats for **junior high and high school** students for Bashor Children's Home in Goshen, IN. New or very gently used coats - sized M, L, and XL - will be gratefully accepted. Bring your donated coats to the church by October 18 and place them in the receptacle labeled "Coats for Bashor Children" in The Commons near the church office. Thank you for your help with this project.



SEE YOU AT THE CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS TUTORING

Crossroads tutoring is off to a great start! We had 11 students attend during our first week from elementary, middle and high schools. All local students are welcome to attend. We have many new and returning tutors, but we can always use more. You may volunteer weekly, biweekly, monthly, or occasionally, and you will only be matched with an age group or subject you feel comfortable with. Harrison and McCutcheon High School students in the honors program may be able to use this experience to complete their Service Learning projects. Tutoring meets each Tuesday evening from 7-8:15pm here at the church. If you are interested in volunteering as a tutor or would like more information, please call Deanna Campbell at 567-5022 or email at dcyrcampbell@comcast.net.

simply people puppet troupe

Hello all! I would like to know if you had heard of a new ministry for adults being run through the CrossRoads program? This ministry is using ancient methods along with powerful modern tools to educate, enlighten, and to be



bearers of God's Word to people inside and outside our congregation. Its effects are easy to see – people easily remember what the ministry group does while retaining the messages given and usually have a good time while doing so! It seems to work equally well working with people who are 5, 25, 50 or 75 years of age. In the same way that the Praise Team uses modern music to worship and to lift people's hearts, this team uses a variety of theater methods to tell stories and to praise God.

Okay, I must confess two things. First, it isn't exactly a new ministry – it's been around for four years now and is going strong. Secondly, it isn't exclusively for adults as teens are allowed to participate as well. Of course, I am talking about the Simply People Puppet Troupe and their ministry work.

However, everything else mentioned above is very much true, and it is also true that this is a ministry for adults of all ages! Now, I can hear some of you grown-ups out there who are interested saying "Oh, I could never learn how to do that..." Pshaw! Some of the techniques do take practice but in reality are relatively easy. Many of our current puppeteers were performing literally within weeks of starting, and we are always working on our technique. What's that? You would but simply don't have enough time? Well, that may be true but it also may be that some of you aren't aware of our schedule. We generally practice for one hour a week with breaks now and again around holidays, and we generally do one and sometimes two presentations a month. There you go – if you are a current Disciple class member (and I hope you are) you are putting in more time per week than the puppet group requires each month! And I heard someone in the back, "Isn't this a ministry just for kids?" Definitely not! While I enjoy being a kid at heart, it is not only for adults as well but seems to work best with a strong mix of youth and grown-ups. Right now, we definitely need more adult performers to strengthen our group.

So, you enthusiastic and adventurous adults out there, please feel free to come try this. Call me anytime at 420-0452, or drop by one of our practices any time throughout the year and give us a hand. We will be happy to put a character on yours! In the meantime we will be seeing you all on the other side of the stage.

Ted Foster



Senior High Update

Attention All: This Sunday, Sept. 27, is the Mission/Camp Presentation, and everyone is invited to come and hear how God changed our lives in this wonderful week. There will be a video and slide show presentation. The kids who went will talk about their experiences, and there will be time for a Q & A session. There will be refreshments and a good time will be had by all. There may even be some surprises during the event, but you must come to find out what I am talking about. If you have an 8th grader, this would be a good event to come and see why your child might want to come next year.



The Senior High has been having a great start to the year. We have recently had a cookout at the Townsley's, were gnomes for a day, and have been talking to your kids about dating in today's world. Our upcoming calendar is full of some really important things also. This calendar will be changed often, but this is a good place to start for rest of 2009.

Sept 27—Mission/Camp Presentation. All are welcome 6pm in the Intersection

Oct 4—Youth Group—Celebrate Tom Arrowsmith's Birthday—Presents expected—Homecoming event

Oct 11—Youth Group—Presentation from a Capt in Purdue's Police Dept about Drugs

Oct 18—Youth Group

Oct 25—Youth Group—Trying to do something different this night—Maybe group Movie night at Wabash Landing

Nov 1—Sr High Ushering 2nd Service, Youth Group

Nov 8—Youth Group

Nov 13/14—Help with Scrapbooking

Nov 22—2nd Annual Thanksgiving dinner at church
.....possible talent show also

Nov 29—No Youth Group



Dec 6—Meeting for 2010 Mission trip & then Youth Group

Dec 13—Youth Group—How to Ace your Exams !!!

Dec 20—Christmas Party at the Arrowsmith's