

Year 7  
Issue 19

# The CrossRoads Connection



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

## We Are Better Together

I can remember my high school football team. It isn't hard for me to remember that team – we stunk. We really were lousy. At least we were until my senior year; but then something special happened. I still can't believe the turn-around.

My sophomore and junior years, opposing teams LOVED seeing Lewis County High School (WV) come up on the schedule. It was pretty much a guaranteed win – for them. Oh, we won a game or two here and there, proving that even a blind squirrel can get an acorn some of the time. Did I say we were lousy?

The funny thing is, those first two teams had about the most gifted high school athletes I have ever seen. We were big, fast, strong, athletic kids who were tough as nails and strong as you'd expect from boys who had grown up tossing bales of hay all

chipping in

summer, every summer. Lifting weights wasn't new to us; we did it every day at home.

And, our coach those first two years was pretty smart when it came to the X's and O's of game planning. He and his assistant coaches spent lots of time pouring over the tapes of opposing teams and coming up with ways to stop opposing offenses and give our offense a plan to exploit any weaknesses the other team might have. They were pretty sharp men.

Looking back on those two teams, I can only shake my head at the opportunity for success that we squandered week after week. And, it wasn't like any of us weren't competitive. We hated losing. We did just about everything we could think of to do to halt the skid, but week after week, we'd stink up

the joint. The best day of football season those first two years was the day after our last game. At least the misery ended for awhile.

Then a new coach was hired to replace the head coach who had resigned in disgrace; our community had a pretty long history of success in football and our superintendent had every intention of returning to glory days on the football field. He and our community were sick and tired of losing.



Pat Sleeth is pastor to the CrossRoads community.

I can still remember the first summer practice my senior year under Coach Larry Blackstone. His first words to us, after looking up and down our ranks and, apparently not liking what he'd seen: "Okay girls, we're going for a little jog. Try to keep together." He then proceeded to run

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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

(Continued from page 1)

us for two hours. A couple of boys passed out. ALL of us threw up. I was convinced I was going to die. Then I was afraid I wouldn't and would have to keep running forever. Oh, my goodness, was that a long afternoon!

He did that twice a day for a week. It always started with: "Okay girls, we're going for a little jog. Try to keep together." A pattern began to emerge. When it was every man for himself and we were spread out all over the track, he kept running us. When we, out of exhaustion (and fear of becoming long-distance runners), began to cling together, helping each other run and picking up those that stumbled and fell, we ran less and worked on football basics more. It didn't take us long to figure out we'd BETTER stick together.

At the end of the week and for the rest of the season, we ran together, we played together, we picked each other up, we encouraged each other when the going was tough (and the going was ALWAYS tough with this guy) and we celebrated together when we began to get our act together.

Looking back to those first two years I can see now that we were 11 individual players doing our own thing. We had a few young men with huge potential for playing at the next level who were only concerned about their

own statistics. We had guys who only wanted to goof off and really gave very little effort. We had guys who didn't really have much interest in learning to play the game or their positions. In short, we had a team but we weren't a team, if you know what I mean.

Coach Blackstone changed all that. We began to pull together towards a common goal. We worked together, we learned together, we held each other accountable and we had a brother's back and we began to change. We had a winning team that year for the first time in several years, even though we probably weren't as talented as we had been in years past. Individually, we weren't as gifted, but as a team we became very, very good.

I have been on teams since then, in sports and clubs and in the ministry. Some have been groups of individuals with not much team emphasis. And, frankly, we didn't really accomplish very much as a group. Some individuals in these groups were exceptional and very motivated to succeed and did some great things on their own. But, even a superstar acting on her/his own can't achieve what even a decent team can accomplish together.

See, a team has a vision for what they want to achieve, each person

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



has a clear role to play and they do their part. When one part of the team stumbles, the rest pick them up and they run together until they get their feet back under them. A team celebrates victories and successes as a team – they win together and they lose together and take encouragement from each other in both instances. A team can finish the race; individuals, even gifted ones often fall behind and drop out.

I say all this because I think we make a pretty good team here at St. Andrew. Yeah, we have some superstars, who do a great job at helping us accomplish great things – things that we all have a part in. Then there are some of us (like me) who aren't necessarily gifted, but we can encourage those who are and support them how we can and we're pretty good teammates! We work together very well.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that our job as a community of faith is too important to not pull together and I think we get that. We can all contribute in our fashion, with our gifts and I hope we do. Mother Teresa once said, "It is not the magnitude of our actions, but the amount of love that is put into them that matters."

My prayer for all of us at St. Andrew is that, if we haven't found our niche here that we look for a place on the team. If you need a hand finding that place to fit in, see Pastor Tim, myself or any of the staff and leaders of this church. We need your help. We want you on the team. Together we can do great things for Jesus Christ. Thank you for saying "Yes!" to Him and this community of faith.

**SEE YOU AT THE CROSSROADS**

*Pastor Pat*



## simply people puppet troupe

"Clothes make the man." as the old saying goes. That's even more true in theater where a costume helps define a character and, as much as anything, sets the time, place, and background for our stories.

That said, we are looking for someone (or **several** someones) who might be willing to make some reusable costumes for our characters, the puppets of the Simply People team. We would like to be able to dress a good number of our menagerie in Biblical costumes as needed, and so far we have a total of two such outfits. Who knows what we might need before the year is over? A costume for a King? A Pilot? A brilliant Pastor with a knack for fly fishing? (We even have a model for that!)



If this is something you might be able to help us with, contact me at 423-3531 or through the church office and help us be dressed for continued success!

See you on the other side of the stage,  
Ted Foster

## TRIVIA MOMENT!

**Question:** Do you know what happens when you take 30 junior high kids to the middle of a corn field?

**Answer:** A good time is had by all!

*Special thanks to the following parents for driving:*

Chris Downard

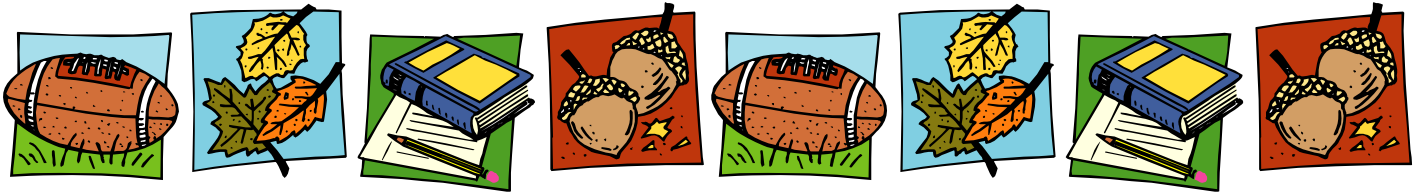
Kim Weston

John and Tresa Baldwin

Ken and Cindy Berkey

Dan and Jeni Leiard





## Senior High Update

For the last two weeks we have been discussing some things we hope our kids will stay away from. On Oct 11th we had 2 police officers from the Purdue police dept come in and give us a presentation about the perils of drug use. They spoke of the perils of drugs, but also the consequences of drug use. Did you know that drug use will get you expelled from the dorms and maybe, most importantly, if you are convicted of a drug offense you can never get financial aid again. We learned about numerous drugs and also got an exhibition from the Purdue drug sniffing dog.

This past week Trae led us on a lesson about the perils of alcohol. We took a quiz about it and the youth disagreed with just about every question. We had great discussions and learned about some of the tough situations that alcohol can put you in.

This weekend with the upcoming TSC Fall Break we will have youth group at Wabash Landing and go to a movie together. Afterwards we will break bread. November 1st we are ushering and have regular youth group.

*If you have never come before, we welcome you to come try us out!*

