

The CrossRoads Connection



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

The Eyes Have It!

chipping in

Do you enjoy having people look over your shoulder? Do you enjoy being watched – all the time? I don't either; in fact, it just about drives me nuts – or did.

Now, I'm not talking about people watching me because I'm a pastor – to see if I'm living up to the expectations of a pastor living the perfect Christian life. I'm going to tell you that I fall somewhat short of that – and you know it. I do the best I can (a lot of the time), but, though I plan to go on to perfection (with God's help) – that day isn't today – but I still should do my best.

Speaking of perfect pastors, a pastor friend of mine sent me a job description for the perfect pastor: He's 25, with 30 years experience. She plays the guitar and piano AND has the perfect singing voice. He's always rested and relaxed but never takes a day off. Makes \$19,000.00 a year and tithes \$20,000.00 to the church. She never misses an appointment, never fails to visit people in the

hospital (even if she doesn't know they are there) and is always on time. She spends 30 hours a week working on superb sermons that never run over 10 minutes. He does visitation 7 days a week but never fails to take a Sabbath. And, it goes on and on.

Sounds like your pastors, eh?

Ah, but I digress.

I have people watching me all the time. If you've looked in my office (and I hope you have), you know that I have lots of pictures. My girls (Heather, Sophia and Claire) are on the top shelf of my computer desk, looking down on me. The window ledge behind me has pictures of Heather, Trent and Sophia (fishing pic's). Right in front of me, to my left, are pictures of our last three Confirmation classes. I have various pictures of friends on various shelves scattered around my office.

Now, before someone

says something, I don't have a picture of Cathy in my office – but I can explain that. I took it home (only a year ago) to reframe it and it became one of those little tasks that just never seems to get done – but will!

Right now, the only picture in my office that doesn't have people in it is a beautiful waterfall picture that Janet Dietz took, framed and gave to me some time back. I really like that picture (I'm certain that stream holds fish, lower down).

Now, my intention is not to provide you with a picture inventory of my office but rather to say that, sometimes, it feels like I'm being watched. Oh, yeah, did I mention there's an interpretive picture of Jesus right across from my desk?

No, I'm not paranoid, but I look up, and there's my family – watching me. To my right, more family. I look to my left and there



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.

Chipping In

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are 60 kids – just staring at me. To my left Jesus reaches out to me, a lost sheep. And, behind me, friends look out at me from wedding pictures, senior pictures, mission trips and more – just looking right at me.

Sometimes, I wish they'd just QUIT IT! Jeez! Give a guy a break, eh? Can't I have any privacy?

Actually, I love it. This is going to sound strange, but even if I don't always like it; I do love it. Why? Well, I love the feeling of being surrounded by family and friends (and Jesus!) – and not just because they are all people I love – though that never hurts!

The pictures remind me of several important things. First, that I am incredibly blessed to be loved by and to love people like these. They fill my life with laughter, encouragement, love, hope and remind me that I am part of something bigger than myself – a community of people of faith. My role here is different than yours, but not more important.

Secondly, since these are people I care about, I am mindful that they are people I am responsible to and for – they are a large part of my life and a big reason why I do ministry in the first place. Thirdly, I am reminded that my work, just like yours, is important work, but I have to see it so. Our work, yours and mine, pretty much always affects people; it makes a difference, but we have to believe that. I mean, I can make it meaningless and frivolous if I choose

but not with this crew watching me! Fourth, they remind me that, though I have let them down in the past, they still believe in me and how important is that when next I struggle? Very!

And, these many eyes that surround me remind me that to do or act less than my very best is not honoring them and my call, so my witness is important. Do I practice what I preach? I certainly should because I believe it or I wouldn't preach it but also because I am reminded that people are watching what I do and if I can't take that, I should explore other career options. A pastor or any Christian whose walk doesn't substantially match their talk is probably leading more people away from Jesus than to Him.

So, the bottom line is, these pictures are much more than just images of friends and family. They are reminders. They are reminders that I don't have to be perfect, but I still need to do my very best because my efforts matter to people I care about.

You know, in our CrossRoads Study Group on Sunday evening, we've been studying the book of Nehemiah. To make a long story short, Nehemiah had been called (by God) to rebuild the walls and gates of Jerusalem and to get Israel back on its collective feet. They rebuilt the walls and gates in 52 days! Then, instead of resting, they gathered together and openly confessed their sins and covenanted together to return to the ways of God.

They confessed their shortcomings in front of their family and friends and neighbors and rededicated themselves back to God. They agreed to keep the Sabbath and to return a proper tithe to the temple and to God. They did this publicly. Why?

Well, part of the reason is so they could hold each other accountable. They could lovingly remind each other of their promises and help them get back on track when they wandered.

There's a lot of benefit to other people caring about what we do – it makes us care more. How many people are successful with a secret diet or a secret plan to quit smoking? Probably not very many! If no one knows we're on a diet, they can continue to offer us that extra piece of pie to munch on. See, I think the odds turn more to our favor when we are clear about our intentions in front of the people we care about and know they care about us. These people can remind us of our promises to them and to each other – and to God.

Privacy is a big thing in our culture. We like to be able to do what we want when we want with no accountability – and no one watching. And, I am a big fan of appropriate privacy – but the bottom line is that I am very thankful that I have a “great cloud of witnesses” surrounding me, watching me, loving me and helping me remember that my call is basically (according to Harry Denman), “...one starving beggar telling another where to find bread...” See, without you, I might be tempted to save and savor that bread by myself. With you, and all those in my life who pay attention to what I do and say, that bread becomes a banquet.

Thank you to all in my life who are (lovingly) “the eyes that watch me.” You help me be better, stronger and more focused than I am on my own.

Pastor Pat

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

SEE YOU AT THE CROSSROADS

Junior High Sunday School Update...

Dorothy Taylor and I teach the Young Youth Sunday School. We are seeking a third teacher to join our team. If you accept our invitation you could teach only when we are in need of a substitute teacher. Or, you could become a third teacher who intends to be with us all or most Sundays.

Since February of 2009 we have just been a "two teacher" class. For the five or six years previous to that time, we had three teachers on our team, and all three of us were there most Sundays.

Our class attendance varies from 10 to 25 students. We divide into groups to allow for greater participation during our activities.

We use teaching stations. If we have two stations, then we divide the class into two groups. Dorothy teaches the Bible related part of the lesson in the conference room. I teach another part of the lesson in our Sunday School room. Half way through the time block, the student groups exchange places. Dorothy and I repeat our lesson with the new group.

When we had three teachers last fall, we did it this way-- Dorothy taught in the Conference room, I taught a group sitting at the end of the hallway, and our third teacher, Bob Newlin, showed the DVD segment of the lesson in the main Sunday School room.

We have a great group of students. Please give this offer some consideration. Contact Monica Arrowsmith, Ted Foster, Dorothy Taylor or me if you are interested. Former teachers Bob Newlin, Brent Clemenz, and Dean Brusnighan could also answer questions. They could tell you how it is to work with Dorothy and me. Dorothy and I appreciate the time of service that they gave to the class.

We need/want to increase our teaching team because Dorothy and I both have grown children who live out of town. We are sometimes gone on weekends when we go to visit them.

Thank you for your consideration,
Pat Babbs



Young Youth Sunday School November :Lessons

- Nov. 1
- Noah give thanks
- Genesis 7: 1-17; 8: 1-22
- Nov. 8
- Miriam gives thanks
- Exodus 14; 15: 19-21
- Nov. 15
- One Leper Gives Thanks
- Luke 17: 11-19
- Nov. 22
- A Dance of Thanks
- Acts 3: 1-10
- Nov. 29
- Zechariah and Elizabeth
- Give Thanks
- Luke 1: 1-25, 57-80

Hi All from the Simply People Troupe!

I was thinking today about how Jesus might want me to spread His Good News. Sadly, what came to mind first was all the ways God hadn't prepared me for this. Half of me would really like to be the orator. I would love to have the verbal skills and sincerity that Pastors' Tim and Pat use to move people with their preaching every Sunday (no small feat!). I would like to have the quick wit and comedic talents of Tonya Bess and Linden Petrin. I would like to have the strong and smooth speaking voices of Randy Kraft or Patrick Nycz. However, an honest assessment of my skills and talents would reveal that I need to keep looking.

The other half of me wishes I could be a music maker. I would love to be able to sing with the joy and beauty of Katie Biehl or Larry Sommers and would give quite a bit to be able to effortlessly play an instrument the way that LuAnn Boggess or Paul Addison can. But, while my singing hasn't cleared a room to date, I have had it suggested that I might sound better as part of a group.

My third half really wishes I had the skills to talk to strangers, wish them well, and know just what to say to bring that little bit of Christ into their lives. It is a hard thing to evangelize in this day and age without encouraging people to turn and walk away, and I wish I had the writing and talking abilities to build just the kind of relationships that God calls us to do. But most times when I find myself in that situation, I can't find the words and am too self conscious to be effective.

But there is a way that I have always liked that I do have some talent in. It involves bringing characters to life that people respond to in a way that ordinary speakers can't match. It involves taking lifeless dummies and creating just enough of an illusion with them that they can tell stories, reach hearts and minds, and sometimes get people laughing. Yup – puppets allow me to do that. And I'm not alone – our troupe this year includes Jan Collins Cutter, Nick Cutter, Laney Arrowsmith, MacLaine Leaird, Stephen Borders, Andrew Burchill, Zach Burchill, Ben Tally, and our globe-trotting puppeteer Ian Leaird and more. That's a boatload of talent no matter how you slice it!

So.... How do you feel called to spread the Good News? See you on the other side of the curtain! Ted Foster

Our Youth in Service... and giving back to them



Thanksgiving is typically a time to give thanks and express our gratitude. CrossRoads Ministries and specifically the junior high/senior high leaders are going to do just that by providing a meal for our kids on Sunday, November 22, 2009! This group of kids constantly amazes me. If you haven't had an opportunity to work with any of them, I suggest you take one soon!

Over the course of the last year, Junior High kids have done the following:

1. They did a week-end mission trip to Indianapolis.
2. They collected can goods in October, February, and June for the food pantry.
3. They have set up and torn down the sanctuary on numerous occasions.
4. They've cleaned up the church.
5. They've ushered, greeted, and served as communion stewards.
6. They've baby sat for our youth.
7. They've volunteered at VBS.
8. They've helped in Joyful Sound and children's moments
9. They've welcomed new families into our church.
10. They've provided their leaders with great joy and humor!

Over the course of the last year, Senior High kids have done the following:

1. They went on a weeklong mission trip to Georgia/Tennessee.
2. Prepared and served Easter Breakfast for the entire congregation
3. Chipped in for Jubilee Christmas gifts.
4. They have set up and torn down the sanctuary on numerous occasions.
5. They collected can goods for the food pantry.
6. They've ushered, greeted, and served as communion stewards.
7. They helped paint the house of a congregant.
8. They have volunteered to drive elderly to church.
9. They helped with set up and worked the Blueberry Palooza.
10. They work audio visual for midweek and Sunday morning services.

This is just a quick list off the top of our heads!

Now we are offering the congregation an opportunity to show your thanks and gratitude for these great kids! We are looking for side dishes for our grand Thanksgiving meal for these kids. The leaders are making turkeys and ham for the kids. **If you would consider providing a side dish, salad, or dessert for the kids.... Please contact Tom Arrowsmith (tmarrow88@comcast.net) 414-7514 or Dana Kirkwood (DanaAnn@gmail.com) 412-6858.**



NOVEMBER
Junior High
Events

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

November 8
10a Sunday School
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

November 15
10a Sunday School
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

November 22
10a Sunday School
6p Thanksgiving meal

November 29
10a Sunday School
No Youth Group - Enjoy Thanksgiving Break!

Young adult Sunday school update

If you're looking for a fun, interactive weekly study in the Word, come join our young adult Sunday school class that meets at 10 a.m. in the Intersection. Don't let the name fool you — we're not just for college-age students. We are the *perfect place* for you if you're in your *20s, 30s and 40s, whether single, married, parenting or anything in between!* The class is currently being led by Kim and Collin Delker and Dave McMillan. Right now we are a pretty small group, so we are definitely open to new members. Presently, we are conducting a DVD-led study called "They Like Jesus but Not the Church: Six Sessions Responding to Culture's Objections to Christianity."

