

The CrossRoads Connection

Year 7
Issue 21



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

With a Holy Impatience...

In case you don't already know this, I want to let you in on another secret about me. Now, it's not a dirty little secret. I didn't rob a bank in my youth (thank you Jesus). I have no plan to overthrow the government (what would I do with it). I didn't used to work in the circus, and I don't day dream about being a trout bum – okay, sorry, this last one is true but the rest are not.

If you know me well, what I am about to say will not surprise you in the least. If you don't know me that well, yet, you may be somewhat surprised. I'm not trying to drag this out, so I'll just get on with it: I'm NOT the most patient person on the planet. There. My secret (or not) is out.

Whew! I'm glad I got that off my chest!

My family can certainly testify to

chipping in

this one. I hate to wait, for anything! I don't like to stand in line. For all my harping on the need to build a solid foundation before moving on to the roof, I confess: my personal tendency is to just start everywhere and move on from there. Just because there is a natural order to some things, first the foundation, THEN the frame, then the roof, that doesn't mean I want to wait to get the pictures hung! Let's move, people! Let's get on with it!

I'm a do-er. I don't like reading plans (ask my wife), and I certainly don't like making them. My tendency, when putting together something with "some assembly required" is to pay someone at the store to do it. If that won't work, I usually try, first, to look at the picture on the box and put it together from there. I mean, how hard can it be?



Pat Sleeth is pastor to the CrossRoads community.

Sometimes, as it turns out, pretty doggoned hard!

What kind of fiend invented the concept of assembly required toys/furniture? And, don't EVEN get me started when it comes to "kits!" Satan has entire armies of workers coming up with these jewels. Oh yeah, these babies come right from the pit! How many of us have put hours in putting some "kit" together only to find out on step 9,917 that some part is missing, mis-cut or you've used it someplace else because of faulty instructions. Aaaaarrrrrrggggghhhh!

This doesn't test my faith, just my temper. I usually lose.

And, it doesn't help my mood when my wife asks, when she already KNOWS the answer: "So, did you

(Continued on page 2)

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.

(Continued from page 1)

read the instructions before you started putting it together?" She just doesn't understand that the only answer I can honestly give is: "Well, no!" I mean, heck, that kind of thing can get you demerits as a guy. You can lose standing in the fraternity of guys. All you have to do is look in the garages around the world and I will get a stout AMEN! There are kits and "some assembly required" projects left unfinished for years in practically every guy-garage on the planet, and the ones that are finished aren't really, if you get my drift. Isn't a tricycle supposed to have three wheels? Does that doll house come with those rakish angles, or is that a recent architectural "interpretation?" Of course I don't read the instructions, I'm a guy – and I'm impatient to boot.

I once tried to do a newsletter where my entire article consisted of "The end." Was I hailed as an innovator by the nice lady who was editing the newsletter? No, I was not. Turns out she had a temper and an impatience similar to mine. I then rewrote the article—about 14 pages worth—I showed her! Of course, she cut it down to about 3 paragraphs with no direction and no ending – not even "The end." I guess she showed me. But, I made my point (that I'm an idiot)!

Did I say that I'm impatient?

Sometimes when I pray, God begins to give me a list of instructions, and I'm already rushing ahead to the finished product – as usual. It takes work to slow down a mind like mine. I've got

people to see, places to go and a pretty full calendar to juggle – can't God give us the "Cliff's Notes" version of His plans?

No. Not with people like me. Abbreviated plans allow too much room for "creative interpretation." I can hi-jack God's plans in a moment – with the very best of intentions. Note to self: that NEVER works out!

He is so patient with me, probably to teach me about patience. It is hard for me to wait. To do my homework, to gather my resources, to plan for success before I work towards success is not something I like to do. I like to jump in and get going. The problem is, when you're putting a bike together, you can go back and start over as many times as you need – before your wife reads the directions and points out the few short-cuts you took that led to the lop-sided handle bars – but when you do ministry, going back is not always so easy.

Did you know that when you pray for patience, God doesn't GIVE you patience? Nope. Rather, when you pray for patience, God gives you an opportunity to be patient.

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



The CrossRoads has grown so much over the years in both numbers and spiritual maturity. We'd probably be even further along if patience was a strong suit of mine instead of a work in progress. But, at least I am making progress (but don't ask Cathy – let's let this be our little secret, eh?). I am learning that some things can't be rushed or skipped if you want a good product. Like God's plans, for instance. You just can't shortcut them, you certainly can't improve upon them. The only thing you can do is follow them, step by step, if you intend to see what God has in mind – and I do. I am filled with a "Holy Impatience," if there is such a thing, to see where God is headed with this ministry and these amazing leaders and students – but I'm learning to wait. Some things are just worth waiting for.

I am teachable, if somewhat stubborn, but God is patient with me, and His example to me inspires me to offer the same to others – not perfectly and not without some struggle – but I know I am not perfect and am coming to understand there is value in the struggle.

I know that I am a work in progress, and I get more comfortable with that with each passing year. So what if everything doesn't get done today? It gives me something to look forward to for tomorrow! And, I will be better for the waiting – and, probably, so will the product.

Did I say that? Is God a great teacher, or what?

Pastor Pat

SEE YOU AT THE CROSSROADS

Senior High Update



This past year as Sr High Youth Group Leader has been unbelievable for me. My relationship with Jesus has grown as has my relationship with our youth. I have been fortunate to be able to spend quality time with them both at church but more importantly away from church. I have attended plays, sporting events, music events, cookouts and mission trips where I have seen the real them. The real them is not that much different than how they are at church, they are Awesome. These kids have more talent and intelligence than you could ever imagine. On the mission trip they worked hard, played hard but also *prayed* hard. We have kids in Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theatre, Football, Fencing, Soccer, Basketball, Cross Country, Track, Baseball, Tennis. We also have 2 kids completing their requirements to become Eagle Scouts, we have kids who have jobs at Purdue, and others who work at Westminster. What I am trying to say is we have kids with many talents who have enriched not only my life but if you think about it, yours as well.

So as Thanksgiving rolls around I am truly blessed to be a part of our Senior Higher's lives. I am so thankful for each and everyone of them. I also want to take this time to thank a few other people who have made my life as a leader at St Andrew so much easier. First, I am so thankful for Debbie Honsowetz who has done so much for our youth, from going on the mission trip to helping with our Easter Breakfast (she did so much more then you can ever imagine), to taking pictures of our kids, to just being there and available to talk to both me and the kids. Thanks also go out to Cathy & Pat Sleeth- Cathy who always volunteers to help out with food or her time and Pat for mentoring me through this past year. I would also like to thank the Junior High leaders for all they do and for teaming up with us on so many things. Last but not least A Huge Thank You goes out to my wife Monica, who went on both mission trips this past year, loves to host the youth in our home and has done a lot of work behind the scenes.

So as Thanksgiving approaches I have so many things to be Thankful for, but the year is not over and we have a lot more to do. We are having a Thanksgiving meal for our youth to thank them for all they do this Sunday. The Friday after Thanksgiving, Monica and I are hosting a Family game night at our house for all Senior Highers and their families from 7pm until ??? Video Games, Euchre, Poker, Pictionary, Scruples or whatever games they bring. Dec. 6 is regular youth group and the 13th is the Mission Trip Meeting. The 20th is the 2nd annual Christmas party at the Arrowsmith's — we will do a gift exchange, have food and kids can hang out, watch a movie or whatever.

I hope everyone has a very Happy Thanksgiving !!!!

Tom



Attention All 8th graders thru 12th Graders:

Dec 13 6 p.m.

Informational Meeting regarding 2010 Senior High Mission Trip !!!

Where: Great Room at Church

Why: Discuss next years Mission Trip

Here is what you need to know to decide if you want to come to the meeting !!

We are going back to Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA on July 25-31....

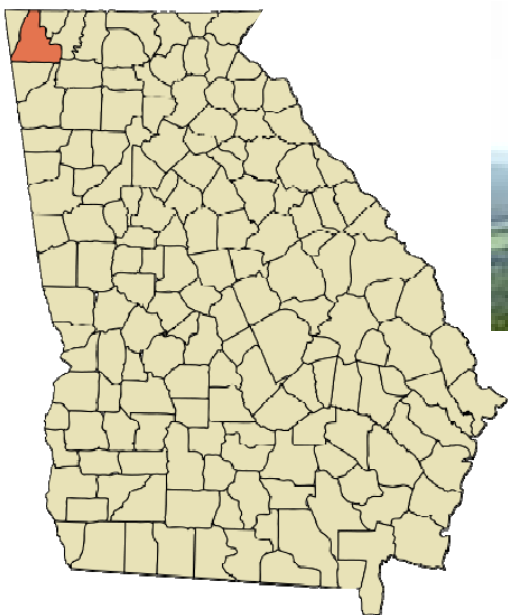
Trip is open to all current 8th graders thru our current 12th graders.

Talk to your kids to see if this interests them and if it does,

See if those dates work for you. If they do, please come to the meeting.

There will be a \$50 deposit per student due no later then 1/15/10.

All questions will be answered at that time. If you have any before then please talk to *Tom Arrowsmith*.



December Senior High Events

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

December 6

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

December 13

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

Mission Trip Meeting

December 20

10a Sunday School

2nd Annual Christmas Party

@ the Arrowsmith's

December 27

10a Sunday School

NO YOUTH GROUPS