

The CrossRoads Connection



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

Boy, DO I have Questions...

Man, do I have questions! I ask questions all the time – to everyone. I guess I must want to know everything. I mean, there’s no such thing as wasted knowledge, right?

Like, for instance, why is it so cold?! Some months back, I read a long range forecast by the National Weather Service that said this winter was going to be warmer (they promised!). Just last week I read a report by the well-known authority on weather and seasons: the Farmer’s Almanac. It said this winter was going to be warmer and drier.

Swell. So, why is it so cold?

And, as long as we’re asking meaningful questions, why does a trout take the thirteenth (perfectly executed) drift over it but not the twelfth or fourteenth, or first, for that matter? What makes that

chipping in



particular drift more appealing than the dozen before? Stupid fish!

And, why does it seem like the world is always at war? Isn’t peace better? Haven’t we read the editorials enough to know that peace IS better? And, what’s up with our President? Why hasn’t he fixed everything yet? He’s had a whole year, and he did say he would. And, what about that whole congress-senate thing; how can it be that dysfunctional after only a couple hundred years? Surely it should take at least five hundred years to get THAT messed up?

And, how can we have two parties and both be that off track? Shouldn’t they take turns being effective or something? Wouldn’t that work better than the current system of both being messed up at the same time?

And, speaking of the great mysteries of life; how can my beautiful, adorable, youngest

granddaughter screech like a banshee when she doesn’t get her way and be beatific a millionth of a second later, when you hand her the cookie she REALLY wanted? No, wait. I get that one.

Why does the neighbor’s dog bark ALL THE TIME? I’m not sure it even breathes – how can it? Maybe it’s a recording to scare away hearing-impaired burglars? Do you suppose there are many of those (hearing-impaired burglars)? And, why are there cats? Didn’t God know I’m (very)

allergic to them? For that matter, why do people eat okra and rice (ewww...!)? Have you heard of Kopi Luwak coffee or the Argan nut that is used for oil – both VERY expensive products? The Luwak bean passes through the digestive tracts of civet cats and the Argan nut (an olive-like fruit with a pit) is passed



Pat Sleeth is pastor to the CrossRoads community.

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Continued from page 1)

through the digestive tract of goats and then they are gathered and ground for coffee and a cooking oil? Have you heard of those? Who came up with these things? Who tried them first? And, WHY in heaven's name did they think they would be good, given the disgusting beginning phase of the "processing?"

Why do we drive so fast when we're young and slow down so dramatically when we get older? Do we get wiser or are we just trying to remember where we were going? And, come to think of it; why do we get so forgetful when we get older (Now, where was I going with this?)?

And, for those of us who like to garden; is the grass ALWAYS greener on the other side of the fence or is this another stupid urban legend? Would it be wrong for me to spray the lawns of ALL my upwind neighbors for dandelions or would this be rude? Will a huge meteor turn out to be the planet-killer the sci-fi and film makers imagine in their literary efforts, or will it, in actuality, turn out to be zucchini?

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



Oh, yeah! I have questions, and maybe the reason I ask so many is because I'm searching for all knowledge. But, perhaps, if I'm honest and dig deep, just maybe I ask questions because I think I DO know everything?

I hope you've taken this article with a grain of salt to this point, but I THINK I'm onto something here. Maybe I ask questions because I think I already DO know the answer – like Job. When's the last time you read the beautiful Book of Job? I love this book, perhaps the oldest *written* book in the Bible. Some scholars think it a poem or a song and still others think it could even have been an ancient morality play. Regardless, I think there is much of Job in me. Job asks God perfectly honest questions that he thinks he already knows the answers to – until God corrects him.

Whenever I get in situations that I think are unfair, I turn into Job. "Why is this happening to me?" I ask that because I know the right answer: "It **SHOULDN'T** be happening to such a righteous person! This is unfair and should stop right now!" I love how God treats Job – and me – when we ask questions of Him like this. He corrects us with the better questions: "Ah, so now you know everything? Because you are so wise, you have all the answers? Because you are so old, you saw creation unfold and you know how everything works?" Job (and me): "Uh, well, no...I spoke out of turn."

It is perfectly okay, when we are being bombarded with negative issues to ask questions – even of God. He has broad shoulders and can take 'em. Go ahead, raise your

voice if you need to, but at some point, if we're honest, we have to admit that we don't know everything. We don't know why things happen the way they do and we don't know why God acts or doesn't act in certain situations. We just can't know these answers.

So, after we've exhausted our questions and vented our anger or annoyance, perhaps the thing to do is just be quiet. And, like Job (and me), just maybe when we get quiet enough, we'll hear God talk and maybe the world will make a bit more sense. We might not have all the answers, but just knowing God is there and in charge might just give us the peace we were looking for in the first place.

Go ahead. Ask all the questions you want. Maybe you'll learn something in the process. But, don't be surprised if all you learn is that it's okay to ask, and God won't tell you everything. May peace be your partner today.

Now, why is it so dad-gummed COLD?

Pastor Pat



SEE YOU AT THE CROSSROADS

simply people puppet troupe

Mark your calendars, memorize the date, come one come all! The Lafayette Religious Arts Festival will be coming to our fair church on Saturday, **February 13**. Why you ask? Thanks to your support, the Simply People ministry group has been asked to present a program entitled "The World of Christian Puppetry" for the festival. To celebrate this kind of theater and to demonstrate where the puppets have served in our church, we will be performing skits and songs, pulling back the curtain to show some of the tricks of the trade, and hopefully will be inspiring and informing people from all over our community. Of course, as part of the hosting church, you all are invited as well!



Not surprisingly, we are also looking for volunteers to help with this larger undertaking. If you have ever wanted to try puppetry, this may be the perfect opportunity to put your hands to work and add your voice for the festival! Just let me know anytime by contacting me at 765-420-0452 or through the church office.

Wishing you all a blessed and prosperous New Year,

-Ted Foster



SUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 7



The CrossRoads Cares ministry is once again selling smoked pork and pulled pork for our annual fundraiser. Tom Paczolt has once again agreed to fire up the smoker and make some pork for us. This time around, for \$15 you can choose either ½ a smoked pork loin OR a quart-size package of smoked pulled pork (approximately 1.5 lbs. of meat); both include sauce on the side. If you've ever had Tom's smoked pork, you know what a treat it is! All profits go toward CrossRoads Cares mission experiences for our youth and young adults. Watch the Sunday bulletins for order forms. We will start taking orders on Sunday, January 24 for pick up on Superbowl Sunday (February 7). Pick up will take place during coffee hour from the kitchen. Thank you for supporting CrossRoads Cares!

- Laurie Klenosky



JUNIOR HIGH UPDATE

IT'S A LOCK IN!!

As you sit reading this newsletter, the junior high are busy taking over the church!! No, really, we are taking over the church from today, January 8 until 8:00 am, Saturday, January 9. Thirty five of my favorite junior high kids are participating in the first big event of 2010. Now, don't worry, we promise that you won't really notice when you come in on Sunday that we've spent the night frolicking throughout the church walls... at least, that is my hope!

In case you are wondering what we do at a church lock in... first I should tell you, we don't really lock the kids in until midnight. At 7:00 pm, we will go ice skating at the Riverside Skating Center in Tapawingo Park. At 10:00 pm, we will pack the kids into cars and take them bowling until midnight. The hope is that we'll wear some of the energy out of them... but if you know any one of these kids, that isn't very likely!

When we get back to the church, Dominos pizza will be waiting! This is another given fact about junior high kids, they love to eat! In fact, at 3am, we will be having Ice Cream Sundaes with all the fixings... cherries, caramel, hot fudge, nuts, whipped cream.... Yum yum! I might even make brownies for the night!

During the night, we will have Bible study, video games, trivia games, and a serious round of Pictionary. You haven't seen anything until you ask an 11 year old boy to draw a praying mantis! Jeff has come up with some fun and exciting team games as well. We'll watch movies from 4-6:30 a.m., and breakfast shows up around 6:30.

What you won't find a lot of at the junior high youth lock in... SLEEP! In fact, the majority of kids won't sleep at all nor will the leaders... until Saturday morning! However, at 8:00 a.m, you will hear me say to each and every child.... "I love you, now GO HOME!"

If you want to stop in and join the fun.... Feel free! We always welcome another adult to come learn from these awesome kids! Trust me, you'll learn more than you ever expected if you take me up on this offer!

-Dana Kirkwood



JANUARY Junior High Events

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

- Jan. 10
10a Sunday School
No Youth Group
Still recovering from the lock in!
- Jan 17
10a Sunday School
6p T.O.M., The Intersection
- Jan 24
10a Sunday School
6p T.O.M., The Intersection
- Jan 31
10a Sunday School
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

Junior High Sunday School January Lessons

- Jan. 10
Jesus in the Temple
Luke 2:39-52
- Jan. 17
Jesus is Baptized
Matthew 3:13-17
- Jan. 24
Jesus Makes a Choice
Luke 4:1-13, Mark 1:12-13
- Jan. 31
Jesus and the Synagogue
Luke 4:16-30