

# The CrossRoads Connection



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

## I remember the signs....

We have been flooded the last two weeks, on all forms of media, with pictures of the horrific disaster that happened in Haiti. And, I can't seem to get them out of my head.

I've seen disasters before, and I'm betting a lot of you have, as well. I've been an early-ish responder in my day to various hurricanes, tornadoes and natural disasters. I know the stench of decay and death, though not human remains – at least that I'm aware of, thankfully. I've heard the crying, the praying and singing and the angry shouts at everyone

chipping in

and no one, from the people on the ground.

I've seen the signs, painted and hung on trees, the side of demolished buildings and painted on the sidewalks. The signs have stayed with me long after other images have softened and faded into the background of my memories – thankfully.

I remember a sign clumsily painted on a piece of plywood and leaned up against some concrete steps in the 9<sup>th</sup> ward of New Orleans.

There was no house left, just the steps. The sign bravely proclaimed: "Home Sweet Home." And, just under that was added, "Fixer-upper for sale! Cheap!" That took some gumption to put out there, and I laughed at the ridiculousness of it and felt a bit of pride in the resilience of the human spirit that could laugh in the face of such

loss – if indeed the loss was theirs.

I remember a sign on the coast of South Carolina after a major storm had blasted through. An entire row of houses that had sea-side views had been blown away. The row right behind them had no roof, garages were gone and trash had been blown in and around every house left standing. Another hand-painted sign in one lawn said simply: "Ocean View Property – NOW!"

I also remember signs with messages like "Have you seen \_\_\_?" Not all the signs are humorous.

I've also seen directional signs, hand-painted and otherwise with needed information: "Pick up water HERE from 1-5 p.m." And, then there are signs with information about



Pat Sleeth is pastor to the CrossRoads community.

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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.

## Pastor Pat's Chipping In

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housing, food and clothing. There always seem to be signs and all seem to have important messages directing people to needed services of one kind or another or signs with some humor or anger of those who refuse to quit. They all have important messages.

Another sign that sticks in my mind is a traffic sign in what was a housing development – not a single home remained standing but the sign did and it warned against speeding – “Children Playing” it reminded us. Not likely.

I was watching some videos about Haiti the other day (I can't help it) featuring a Haitian citizen being interviewed, and he angrily said to the camera/interviewer: “No one gives a damn! Look at this (the dead were piled on the streets); but it's just poor people so who cares? No one gives a damn!” The sign posted right by him said: “NO ONE GIVES A DAMN!”

He was wrong. I care and you care and people around the world care and we are doing what we can to make a difference – and we WILL make a difference. If that man had any idea of the frenzy of activity that was taking place around the world to try and get them aid, he would be amazed and, hopefully,



comforted. Help IS coming.

On one of my fly-fishing boards I posted a message last Thursday night that read simply “HAITI NEEDS OUR HELP! WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!” I was astounded at the response I got from all over the world! A man I only know by his board ID (his initials) responded that his “Dance Club” in England had their monthly dance that night and they were going to “...pass the hat, mate.” And, they did and raised some hundreds of \$ - and passed it along to an emergency aid group in England. Another friend I know well from the board lives in Brussels, Belgium and his fly-fishing club had an “emergency auction” and raised some thousands of dollars that they were funneling towards Haiti by the weekend. And, those were just two of dozens of responses. Help is coming. Don't give up hope!

I heard the passion and anger and fear in that Haitian man's voice, and if I were in his shoes, I might say and feel exactly the same thing – but he was wrong. Someone cares. WE care and a lot of “we's” that gentleman hadn't heard from or met yet, but we're coming. Maybe not in person, but we're coming, all the same.

I love the church of Jesus Christ.

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



We, that is, the church, are never better than when we're faced with a challenge. When human misery overflows, the church steps up. When disaster or war or famine strikes, we reach out from every corner of the globe. Maybe not at the speed some would like. Probably not in the amount some would prefer, but the church of Jesus Christ can NOT sit on the sidelines when help is needed. Now sometimes we (the church) argue over the dumbest details and minutiae when things are going well, but when the chips are down, there we are. Ordinary women and men are chipping in, feeding babies, dressing wounds and rebuilding homes and lives.

The struggle to stabilize the situation in Haiti will take a long time and millions of dollars and human aid of all kinds. But, you can bet the church was one of the first organizations on the ground and will be the last to leave when the job is as done as it can be.

I hope you will continue to offer your prayers and your financial support however you can in the coming months. Haiti will need our help for some time. Maybe, in the months to come, that poor man will be pleasantly surprised that people, all over the world, DID care. I know we do.

*-Pastor Pat*

God   
Answers  
Prayers

SEE YOU AT THE CROSSROADS

CrossRoads in Action...

Bowling on New Years!



GUTTER!



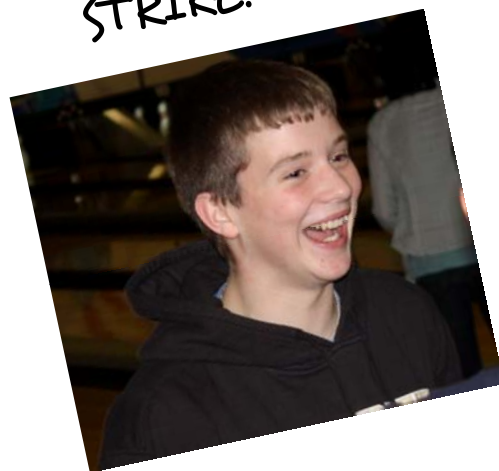
FRIENDS!



STRIKE!



SPARE!



BOWL!



FELLOWSHIP!





## Senior High Update

This last month has been plenty busy for our Senior Highers. On Dec 20, the Arrowsmith's hosted 24 Senior High Youth at our home. We had 2 kinds of lasagna and bread and a few kinds of desserts. The youth hung out, watched movies, and we did our annual Christmas Gift Exchange. We allowed gifts to be stolen from each other, and everyone had a good time. The gifts that were stolen the most were 2 nerf shotguns, a nerf handgun, a snuggie, earphones and a set of poker chips. In the end, a good time was had by all. A few parents came by for some socializing after the party was over and we had some people stay for close to four hours, and that was great.

On Dec. 31, we had a Senior High Bowling event at Star Lanes and had 29 youth and parents show up. In the end, I think we had 26 people bowl. There were lots of strikes, a few spares and even the occasional gutter ball. We even had a few of our youth who needed bumpers, but who cares, we were all there for fellowship and fun.

Nathan Honsowetz had the high youth game at 142 with Zach Grundy right behind him at 139.

Tom Arrowsmith had the high adult game at 152 with Monica at 115 and Pastor Tim at 114.

In the end, scores didn't matter only the happy faces of our youth and their parents.

On Dec. 27, we tried to have youth group but were snowed out, just a reminder that in the case of bad weather please use common sense on whether you come or not. If I cancel youth group, I will send out an e-mail, post it on Facebook and post it on the church's Facebook account also. If you still aren't sure, you can always call me at 414-7514.

-Tom

## February Senior High Events

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

January 31

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

February 5

Set up for Scrapbooking, pizza and movie

February 14

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

February 21

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

February 28

10am Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

March 6

Soul Train—more info to follow

We're also hoping to plan a senior high ski trip in February.

