

The CrossRoads Connection



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

Changes, changes, CHANGES!

chipping in

I don't know about you, but I don't really care for changes all that much. Many so-called and much ballyhooed "improvements" usually aren't. In fact, if I find a product of any kind that I really like; I buy an extra immediately because I know some person with too much time on their hands will do away with it. Humbug, I say! Humbug!

Now, it's not that I'm against progress of some *measurable* kind, but progress often is only in the eye of the beholder – usually someone else with a "good" idea. Take computers. Anything that came out yesterday is more than fair game for "improvement" today. In fact, it's pretty hard to figure out what in the Sam Hill is what when the programs you've just gotten figured out are more or less obsolete nearly before you can use them enough to get used to them – if you know what I mean. I'm in the habit of typing as fast as

I can because I'm never really confident that the document I'm currently typing will be able to be used because some 9 year-old with a Ph.D. from MIT changes the software I'm using just because they can. I've noticed that computer programmers often have radically different ideas about what constitutes progress than I do!

Life seems to move at the speed of light. Maybe it's because I'm older now or maybe it's just because I'm finally paying attention, or maybe, as is likely, a bit of both. I admit to being a bit of a curmudgeon when it comes to new things. It takes me 10 years to properly break in a pair of jeans and at least a couple of years and many miles to find out if a pair of boots or hiking shoes will feel like I want them to feel should I have to depend on them some day, like on a trail somewhere (like to a

secret fishing spot). By the time I tell if I like a pair of shoes, they don't make them anymore.

At the heart of this little bit of grumpiness is my new computer. I really like the new computer. It's about the size of a box of cereal and is blazing fast – when I can figure out how to get the contrary thing to do what I want it to do. I find myself talking to it: "No, I don't WANT you to create a whatchamacallit now; I WANT YOU TO DO WHAT I ASKED YOU TO DO! You stupid machine!"



Pat Sleeth is pastor to the CrossRoads community.

It's very different. The document I'm working on looks different. The commands are different. The buttons, whistles, bells and gizmos are all different – and I am currently getting a box flashing every 10 seconds on my screen telling

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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.

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me that there are file conflicts in my somethingorother file – I didn't even know I HAD a somethingorotherfile! Why do I have to resolve it if the computer is so smart and easy to use? Why doesn't it fix it itself and just quit bothering me? In fact, if the new and improved super-computer is so darned smart, why doesn't it write the newsletter article and forward it to Cindy so I can move on? In fact, I'm not even sure I can figure out how to save this article and SEND it to Cindy to get integrated into the newsletter!

Note to Cindy: If you can read this, here's the newsletter article. If you didn't get anything, I DID write it and my smarty-pants computer couldn't find it in its super-sonic heart to send it – it's not my fault. In fact, where's my old computer? At least I could use (portions of) it!

Now, I don't want to come off as not appreciating the work of our trustees, who are responsible for maintaining the office equipment (and every other piece of equipment in the building). They do a great job. And, I certainly appreciate the hard work of Mike and Taylor Honsowetz. When Mike asked me what I wanted, to be fair, about all I told him was "...it has to be blazing fast..." I should have included "...and work exactly like my old one!" An irresponsible oversight on my part that is proving quite troublesome. And, I really appreciate Taylor's work as well. Man, is he good! He can fix whatever computer problems I get myself into. Well, at least he has so far. He

makes sure our computers run and talk to each other (they certainly don't have much to say to me!), but I see some cloudy days ahead – I can barely turn this thing on! Taylor understood more about computers at birth than I do right now. It's not that I'm a complete idiot when it comes to computers – no matter what he might tell you. I have a few things in my bag of tricks. Well, two, really. I can reboot it and pray over it. In fact, I'm getting ready to lay my hands on the new system and perform an exorcism to get rid of the demons of stubbornness that currently possess it. We don't do that much in the modern church; but desperate times call for desperate measures! Did I say I'm not good with change?

Still, scriptures and common sense tell us that about the only thing that stays the same is that change happens. Change can pull us out of ruts in our work and our relationships. It can help us grow and learn new things – like I'm doing now and though I'm whining quite a bit – it won't really do irreparable damage to me (except my mental health). Change can make us stronger and better able to face what comes next. Change is a healthy part of life that we need to be able to roll with.

Some change is dramatic, like a new

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



computer in front of you and the old one gone to wherever it is that old computers go. Sometimes it is subtle, and you really can only see the changes by slowing down long enough to think about how something used to be. We are surrounded by changes at St. Andrew and the CrossRoads. We do ministry in a new location and a new building now; we have grown in many ways and adapted to not only the new building but the new and faster pace we seem to be moving at today.

Speaking of changes, in case you haven't heard, my ministry role here at St. Andrew will be undergoing some changes in the coming months, some fairly dramatic but most will be subtle and hopefully, fairly unremarkable. I will be shifting from your full time pastor to the youth and young adult community, The CrossRoads, and moving to half-time in that role (with a still-to-be-hired CR Director of Programming to fill the other half position) and half-time as your Associate Pastor with expanding roles and responsibilities that we are still exploring. Also, in a couple of months I will be taking my delayed-for-a-year sabbatical this April through June. I confess that change isn't really my favorite thing, but I admit that I am really looking forward to seeing what God has in store for me during our time together – and, through our continuing conversations during our time alone together, perhaps even more changes to come?

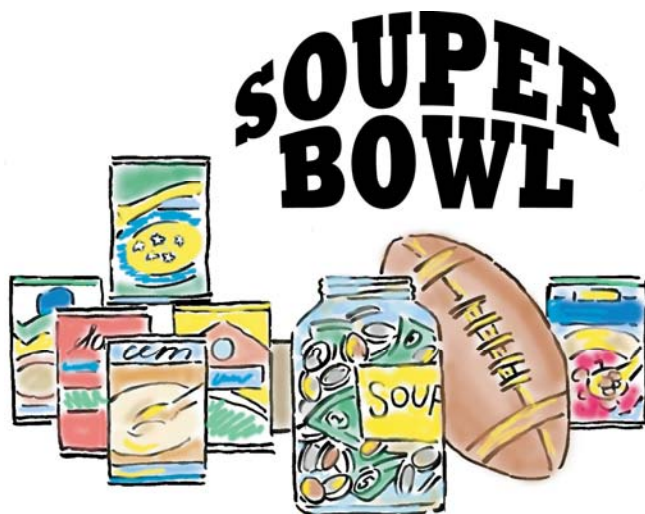
I guess I'd better get used to this change stuff!

-Pastor Pat

SEE YOU AT THE CROSSROADS

SOUPer Bowl of Caring

Super Bowl Sunday is a well-known event every year by millions of Americans. This year, it was even more exciting because our home state team was being represented! And while I'd love to tell you that the Colts won, I'm writing this before the game has even started, but I do know that St. Andrew's Junior High Youth were part of a winning event called the SOUPer Bowl of Caring!



SOUPer Bowl of Caring is a national event to get youth all over the world to utilize Super Bowl weekend to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. In 2010, 1,304 groups participated and raised \$2,325,642 within their different communities. St. Andrew youth donated nearly 100 cans of goods and \$583.58 to the Church Women United's Food Pantry which services the Greater Lafayette area. St. Andrew youth use this Sunday to give back to their church family too. Twenty six junior high students, 4 senior high students, and 2 fifth graders served as communion stewards, junior church helpers, greeters, ushers, bearer of the light, and bearer of the word during first and second services.



"Why do I need to go to church?
I pray every Sunday. And I pray extra hard
when we're inside the 10-yard line."

Overall, SOUPer Bowl of Caring was a great success! Thank you to St. Andrew's members for your generosity and caring spirit that helped make this event a large success.

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!!!!!!

The CrossRoads Cares Ministry would like to thank the congregation for their support of this fundraiser. Once again we raised \$1,000 for our youth and young adults to participate in mission experiences. We would also like to express sincere appreciation to Tom and Carol Paczolt for allowing their house to smell like smoked pork for three days straight! A great big thank you to all the volunteers who braved the weather to help on Friday evening to pull the meat and package it up for the orders taken. Your support of CrossRoads Cares is greatly appreciated!



Junior High Update



Measuring Success?

Pastor Pat recently asked the CrossRoads leaders how we measure success. I have been dwelling on this question for awhile now. How do you measure a program such as youth group for successes?

I mean, in all seriousness, I consider it a success when I show up on Sunday nights and there are kids there! In today's day and age, there are hundreds of options available to our kids on where they could be spending their time. The fact that they choose us.... I consider that a success.

However, my father, the accountant, would say that you measure success by the numbers. So I pulled together my numbers. We have an average of 20 kids each Sunday evening. We have fewer 7th and 6th graders than 8th graders. We do one activity a month or at least try to do one. We have six leaders that look forward to being with the kids. We have kids from five schools and all three school systems. Yet, that doesn't seem a fair measurement of success.

My mother, the psych nurse, would say that you measure success by the overall health of the program. In that case, I'd say the fact that the kids seek out their friends from other schools during "non" church times speaks towards our success. The fact that during one Sunday morning we had six kids from youth group show up to help greet and usher that had never been to a church service at St. Andrew prior. Additionally, they came without their parents but merely because they wanted to come. I'd measure the success of chat sessions where kids have quoted the Bible to make a point with me. The fact that they openly invite their friends and their friends stay Sunday after Sunday is a success.

As for me, my real measurement of success is when I see the love of Jesus come alive in a child during a social event or during Bible study. When I hear a kid say "I love church" and mean it... that is my success. However you want to measure it, St. Andrew's junior high kids are overflowing with success, and I'm just proud to be a part of their group!

If you know of a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader that would like to come join us, we meet from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. every Sunday evening in the junior high room. We look forward to meeting them!

- Dana



February Junior High Events

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

February 7

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

February 14

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

February 21

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

February 28

10a Sunday School

6p T.O.M., The Intersection

FUTURE PLANNING:

March 6—Dance

April 10—Mission Trip

April 17—Battle of the Bands

Junior High Sunday School February's Lessons

Feb. 7

Ruth

Ruth 1-4

Feb. 14

The Great Commandment

Luk 10:25-37

Feb. 21

The Four Friends

Mark 2:1-12

Feb. 28

A Love Letter

1 Corinthians 13