

The CrossRoads Connection



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

HELP WANTED!

What was Cindy thinking when she sent that email that said to get her a newsletter article on Monday night? Didn't she know that the modern day David was taking on Goliath in the form of the NCAA final game? Who could possibly write an article while Butler is down by one point against a well known Methodist school that has been known to graduate amazing people and play ball pretty well. However, as much begging and pleading on my part, a newsletter article she requested.

I suppose this game and our hope for the outcome isn't really that different than how we view



our roles at St. Andrew. It doesn't matter if you are the big powerful Duke volun-

teer or the little Butler volunteer... your presence in the programming is strong and needed! Each person provides his or her own scope of talents.

This is extremely true in the Simply People Puppet Troupe. It appears pretty simple, doesn't it... some people, some puppets, a stage.... You have a puppet show! HA! After talking to Ted Foster, the current program leader, there is a lot that goes into these productions. There are the puppeteers. These people hold a puppet over their head for periods of time as they act out the presentation. There are the voice actors. These individuals provide the vocal parts of the presentations. There are the sound people that help mic the live performances or help put the presentation in "the can" which means they tape a presentation for later use. There is the creative team of writers and directors that help bring the



THE WHOLE TROUPE!

presentations to life. Simply People Puppet Troupe has several creative people that write original scripts for children's services, mid-week service, and ministry moments.

Hard to believe there are so many important parts of one program, isn't it? These are the people you would assume to be an important part of a puppet troupe. However, there are MORE roles necessary for this to become successful. Ted is looking for an "operational manager" or "stage manager". He would love

(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.



PUPPETS IN ACTION!

(Continued from page 1)

to have someone that would be interested in keeping track of performances, scheduling events, and making sure that necessary props are out and available. In other words, we need someone that doesn't want to be in front of or behind the stage but instead be supportive of the entire Simply People Puppet Troupe.

This person would help our Simply People Puppet Troupe to move their ministry to the next level. Ted would love to see the ministry provide outlets to our children, local senior citizens, and other venues. He dreams big, and I like that about him! What he needs now is someone



GRANNY

to take those dreams and help make them a reality with the gift of organization and administrative prowess!!

Additionally, Ted would love to have a seamstress that can help create some biblical costumes. I laughed when Ted talked about this need. Asking me about this possibility is like asking me about singing... I have no idea what one needs to make costumes, biblical or not! However, maybe, you do!

If you think either of these positions might be your calling, if God is whispering in your ear that one of these are the perfect position for you.... Please stop and talk to me or Ted! We'd love to talk about the needs and see how you might

fit into this amazing program!

Like the NCAA championship game, you just never know who's going to be there... it might be the most unexpected team.

-Dana

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Ted Foster—

fosters.midwest@verizon.net

Dana Kirkwood—

dana@andrew-umc.org

Or call Dana at the church office at 497-7755 to discuss this further!

simply people puppet troupe

Do you remember how much you loved story time as a kid? For many people that love of hearing or telling stories never goes away. We love our favorite books and reread them even though we know the ending, applaud the movies that touch us and perk an ear when someone is relating a good tale.



I know some of you out there have a talent and a passion for being the storyteller as well. If so, we have an outlet to offer you. The Simply People troupe always welcomes stories and scripts from our congregation. If you have something that you have written that you think would be perfect for the puppet ministry, we would love to take a look. Or, if you would be willing to volunteer your time once in a while to provide scripts for specific events we would welcome the addition to our team of "staff writers". Just contact me at your convenience!



And now the news - after our successful presentation for the Religious Arts Festival, the puppet ministry joined with Children's Worship for a Sunday in March. Now we are working on a presentation at the upcoming "Battle of the Praise Bands" on April 17 at Covenant Church in West Lafayette. And that isn't the end of our year as we will also be working at VBS this year with a new special guest, so we hope to see you there too.

(Continued on page 4)

Junior High Update – Mission Indy

On Saturday, April 10, at 6:30am; Teens On A Mission will be leaving St. Andrew for their annual mission trip. They will be working with Mission Indy on projects set to show the kids and leaders how to put their faith into action. Below are a few thoughts from some of the individuals that will be going!



Hannah Brainard (6th grader): I am really looking forward to the Mission Indy. It will be my first mission trip. I've heard from others that it is really fun. I'm excited to help other people that live in a different community than I do. I'm very excited to visit a different church to see how they worship, because it might be different than we do at St. Andrew. I think that that this mission trip will be really fun and a good experience for everyone.

Ben Tally (8th grader): Whenever I feel sad or annoyed, I think to myself: "At least I still have the Mission Indy trip to look forward to." All the implications of doing the work with my church family mask all connotations of the word "chores"--and, for some reason, not being surrounded by corn helps us reflect on our relationship with God.

Monica Hoover (Leader): Mission Indy is an awesome experience and I am looking forward to yet another venture this year! First, I get to spend some wonderful time with terrific junior high students and adult leaders while helping others. Second, I get to help give the junior high students a chance to really find out what it is like to fulfill Jesus' mission for us. Let me tell you, there is nothing like watching kids excited to tear down a dusty house that covers them in black and still be smiling at the end of the day. Third, I get the opportunity to learn from the people we help and the students we lead. It's never a question of "Will I learn something today?" but a question of "What will I learn today?"

Adam Bess (8th grader): Mission Indy's mission statement goes like this: "Equip Christians to serve others." They claim to do this by encouragement, "As church groups come to work in the city we endeavor to encourage them to be faithful in all that God has called them to be and do where they are planted," and by motivation, "Church groups who spend time with Mission Indy will be motivated as they hear and see stories and examples of people who faithfully allow God to use them to display His wisdom and love." All of this is absolutely true. As an eighth grader, I have had the opportunity of going on two Mission Indy trips and loved and learned a little more each time. Adults today would say that today's youth are lazy and don't want to do work for others. I think that some of that may be true but once we get to our work site and see that we're needed to help these people, our whole mindset changes. What we get out of Mission Indy is the ability to take pride in our work and feel good about what we are doing. Last year, as I looked around at all of the people helping us landscape a backyard, I could see the work of God, shining in those people's faces. It's a moving experience and definitely is worth finding out who you are and coming closer in working alongside with God and his people.

Markie Soposky (8th grader): In the past two years of my doing Mission Indy, I've walked away with a different way of looking at things. The first year, I was working at a homeless shelter place that was cleaning out some newer houses so they could have more residents. While we were working there, some of the residents from the shelter across the street came out and helped us mow the lawn, move things around, and clean the basement and attic better. Also while we were there, we overheard a little girl and her dad going into their house. The little girl said something along the lines of "But

APRIL
Calendar

April 10	Mission Indy!
April 11	<i>NO YOUTH GROUP!</i>
April 17	Support Battle of the Bands - 12-6 p.m.
April 18	T.O.M., The Intersection
April 25	T.O.M., The Intersection

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES!!!

We want to celebrate the success and achievements of our high school and post high school degree or certificate students. If you will be graduating this year, we want to know! Please contact Dana Kirkwood (497-7755 or dana@andrew-umc.org)

(Continued on page 4)



Dad, I don't want to go in there. It's too hot." They were living in a house that had boarded up windows and doors. That little girl showed me how lucky I am to have not only heating and cooling in my house, but also adequate windows and doors. The second time I went to Mission Indy, my group and I worked on a house where the father had been in a lawn mower accident. We worked on his back yard landscaping and shoveling dirt. We moved about two tons worth of rocks, shoveled dirt and gravel into the back of a truck, and built a play set for the family's five-year old girl. While we were there, friends of the family and a few neighbors came and did some of the super heavy lifting that we couldn't do, moving the dirt around from the backyard to where the truck was, and other various things. We saw how much those people really cared about the family and how you don't have to be signed up for something to just help. Also while we were there, we were two houses down from where the boys in my group worked the year before. They had built a ramp for a guy in a wheel chair, and so while we were there we went and took some extra mulch into their backyard for them. The guys loved seeing their ramp and everything the family had done with it. Mission Indy is an opportunity to help the people in your community. It's definitely something I love doing, and can't wait to go again!

Marilyn Foster (Leader): This will be my second year helping with Mission Indy. Last year I was excited because I didn't really know what to expect. This year I am excited because I DO know what to expect! The kids get a chance to work together as a group, putting Christ's love in action, to help someone else. They get to give back to the community. Not only that, they strengthen their relationships with one another and with the leaders. They walk away at the end of the day knowing that they made a difference in someone's life. That's big. I love knowing that I am a part of that team, helping to make that difference in a stranger's life and in the lives of our youth group kids. At the end of the day, there is sweat, dirt, aching backs, sore muscles and maybe even a few tears, but the joy and the satisfaction of making that difference is completely worth it.

Please add the following people to your prayers over the week-end: Scott Baldwin, Evan Berkey, Adam Bess, Melissa Bol, Steven Borders, Andrew Brainard, Hannah Brainard, Abby Burchill, Zoe Daigle, Blair Hardebeck, Garrett Kirkwood, Maclaine Leaird, Aidan Leaird, Gabby Mitchell, Evan Parker, Markie Soposky, Ben Tally, Lauren Weston, Monica Arrowsmith, John Baldwin, Julie Conlon, Ted Foster, Marilyn Foster, Cory Hardebeck, Deb Honsowetz, Monica Hoover, Dana Kirkwood, and Jeff Norris.

(Continued from page 2)

Lastly, I want to recognize our high school seniors who will be moving on to their upcoming college careers. Andrew and Zachary Burchill have been active members of the ministry since it started in 2006 and have worked hard to become excellent puppeteers. These young men have time and time again shown themselves to be dependable, hard working, energetic, and full of Christ's love. We will miss them greatly and wish them extraordinary success in their endeavors.

See you on the other side of the curtain,
Ted Foster



****ATTENTION SPRING CLEANERS****

The senior high missions team is looking for your no longer needed treasures for the University Farms yard sale in late May. If you have items that you'd like to donate towards this sale, please contact Dana Kirkwood at the church office!