

The CrossRoads Connection



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

It's All In The Approach

I was talking about my childhood recently with my mom. She was remembering all the difficult times over the years that she and my father made it through by the grace of God. I, however, did not recall any of the things she was talking about and was shocked to learn some of the trials they faced. I remember my childhood as summers on the lake, tennis lessons, and softball. We swam during the day, played tennis in the morning, and well, during the summer.... Softball was all the time. The town I lived in had a little store where we would ride our bicycles to get candy and almost always stopped by Fox's ice cream store for Coca-Cola in a bottle and a scoop of our favorite flavor. I have told people, my childhood was similar to Beaver Cleaver's, only I had two annoying brothers!



Dana Kirkwood is the Program Director for the CrossRoads community.

In listening to my mother talk about how my parents struggled to endure our teenage years was shocking. I mean, I thought we were great kids. In fact, I think I was completely likable during those years, but she assures me that I was as difficult as my brothers. I have no doubt, had you asked me in the 80s.... I'd have told you all the reasons I rocked

and brushed off any suggestions for improvement! I would have told you that wearing leg warmers to school was EXACTLY what was needed and if anyone thought I'd bother to wear a shirt without that all important alligator on it..... Well, they were just wrong!

My brothers remembered those times differently. According to both of them, I did not rock and, in fact, bordered on snobby. My youngest

brother, Max, will tell you that living in the shadow of our other brother was not easy. Apparently, Robert's perfect SAT scores and varsity basketball stardom were not helpful to the younger, less academically focused kid brother. He said that it didn't help that his sister knew almost all the kids at school and for reasons he could not understand, they liked me. He remembers our childhood as fishing, working around the house, and delivering newspapers. Robert, the middle child, tells about how he was constantly forgotten. His basketball games were skipped because the "other kids" had something else where the parents were needed. He swears that we skipped his birthday one year, but no one in the family remembers this but him.



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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.

The Approach...

(Continued from page 1)

My father talks about how balancing the schedules of two working parents and three active kids was more difficult than managing entire companies and very complicated budgets. He talks about the constant living in the car racing from one event to the other. How is it that five people, living in the same house, could remember the same 10 year period so vastly differently? Yet, all of us, with our mild complaints and poor pitiful me tales, remember the love. Never once throughout this period did any of us feel as if we were not loved by the others, and never once did it occur to us that we would want to be anywhere else but right where we were in our family.



This past week-end, it occurred to me that our mission trip was similar to talking to my family. We took eighteen kids and ten adults down to the poorest area of Indianapolis to spend a day being the body of Christ. All twenty-eight of us were in the same place, doing basically the same work and yet, our experiences are vastly different.

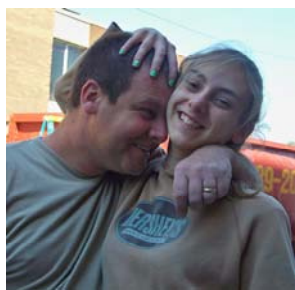
We worked at the old Indianapolis Public School number 3. This is a three story building that once housed a cold school which was thought to keep tuberculosis at bay. It was later transformed to a women's shelter for many years. Currently,



it sits abandoned, owned by a local church that is in the process of remodeling it for transitional housing.

Our group worked to help with the demolition before contractors could be hired to help with the renovation. So, we broke into three groups. The first group of people went to the first floor to take out ceiling tiles and pull carpet staples from the floor. Group two removed light fixtures and pulled carpet staples from the second floor. Group three removed carpet and carpet staples from a different area of the second floor. It sure wasn't glamorous work with exciting power tools. It was backbreaking hard work.

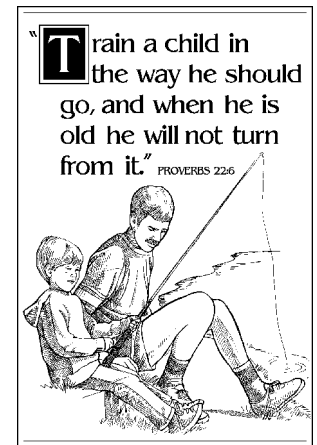
My own memories of the work are to say it was not "exciting." In fact, I'd venture to say it was dreadfully boring. So, you can imagine my shock when Brie Mitchell informed me how much she was enjoying using her math skills to carefully compact the trash into the dumpster to save money. Blair Hardebeck was thrilled to be working with her father all day. Marilyn Foster and Deb Honsowetz were downright giddy when they talked about taking an entire ceiling down alone. Andrew Brainard had a blast busting tiles with his head. Evan Parker enjoyed working on the ladders. How could they be so joyful over such mundane events? How could they be in the exact spot where I stood and see a different



picture?

Proverbs 22:6 tells us that if we train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it. Our mission experience

was hoping to put this verse into action. Not only did we want to help the community where we worked, we wanted the kids to learn the importance of putting their faith into action. We wanted the kids to see that by making a tiny difference in



the community, we made a large difference in ourselves. Our hope is that these amazing individuals will see the joy, the love, and the compassion that went into this own experience and want to duplicate those things throughout their lifetimes.

Personally, the trip ended up serving as a reminder that God does not call us to do the work that is fun or the easy stuff. Sometimes, the work is boring. Sometimes, putting your faith into action is more about how you approach the work than the actual work itself. So, when I look back on this experience, I'm going to not remember the hours pulling staples but how a group of junior high kids taught me that love, joy, and kindness can make any experience just what I need!

-Dana

Senior Spotlight!

We continue to spotlight our Senior High youth who will be graduating this year.

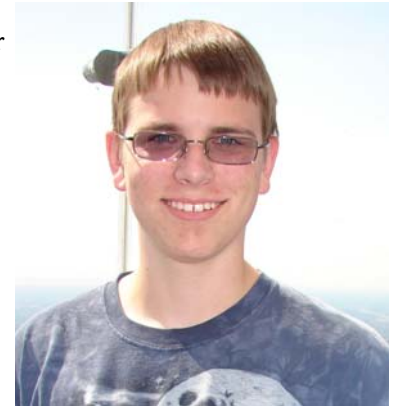
Alex Deason

Alex Deason is a Senior at Benton Central High School and has been involved with a variety of activities throughout his four years. He has traveled to England, Ireland, and Scotland through the People to People program, has played football for all 4 years and was on the track team, throwing discus and shot put for 2 years. He is a 10-year 4-H member, focusing mostly on the Aerospace Project. He enjoys the designing, building and painting aspects of the project. In high school, he has really enjoyed classes such as Computer Aided Design, Architecture, and Engineering, leading him to major in Computer Graphics Technology next year at Purdue. Alex is also the crew chief for the school's High Mileage Club, a group that competes in designing and building a vehicle to get extreme gas mileage. Alex has been a life-long member of St. Andrew. He is planning to go on the Sr. High Mission Trip this summer and has participated in a previous mission trip. Alex's hobbies and interests include listening to music, cars, electronic repair, computers, videogames and hanging out with friends.



Bryan Foster

Bryan is a senior at North High School in Downers Grove, Illinois. He has been a member of the band for three of his four years, playing trombone in the marching band, wind ensemble and jazz band. He has been on the Honor Roll throughout his high school career and was named an AP Scholar with Honors. At St. Andrew, Bryan is an active participant in the senior high youth group, assists with Vacation Bible School, helps with the puppet ministry and regularly attends Sunday School. Bryan attended Senior High Institute in 2006, the senior high mission trip to Redbird camp in 2007, and traveled with his Downers Grove church choir and puppet ministry on a two week tour of eastern Europe in 2008. He is interested in engineering and physics and looks to build a career in aerospace and astronautics. Towards that end Bryan spent part of his summer the past two years at the National Space Camp in Huntsville, AL and will be attending a two-week program there again this summer. The Senior High community is proud to let everyone know that Bryan was accepted into the School of Engineering at Purdue University and will start in the fall.



Matt Paczolt

Matt Paczolt is currently a senior at Harrison High School where he has been involved in Varsity Baseball for a number of years. Matt enjoys playing baseball but what he enjoys most is hanging out with his friends and family. Matt has been involved in many St Andrew activities over the years including Sunday School, youth group, vacation bible school both as a participant and as a volunteer, multiple mission trips and many other things. Matt has spent his life at St Andrew and looks forward to many new adventures here in the future. The Senior High is proud to call Matt a member of our community and wish him nothing but the best for him at Purdue next year. Matt hopes to become a pilot while at Purdue, and I am sure he will be joining the Paint Crew as well.



Senior Spotlight cont.

Leah Winger

Leah attended West Lafayette schools and was also home schooled. She loves hanging out with friends, texting, shopping, spending, four wheeling and enjoys the hot tub also. Leah has worked at VBS and is an active participant in Sunday School and youth group. Leah has also gone on multiple mission trips and is going on another one this summer. We are honored that Leah has been part of the St Andrew Sr High Community and wish her nothing but the best at Ball State University where she will major in Nursing.



Cole Weston

Cole attends Harrison High School where he has been involved in Tennis, Soccer, and the Bowling teams in his four years. He tutors other students in math, which is not surprising when you consider he had a perfect score on the math portion of the SAT. He has competed in the AMC - Indiana Math Competition. While at home Cole loves to torment his sisters. Cole also works at Wildcat Canoe and Kayak. Cole has been a leader at VBS for the last 6 years and has gone to church camp multiple times. Cole has also gone on multiple mission trips and will once again be going this year. We are honored that Cole has been part of the St Andrew Senior High Community and wish him nothing but the best at Purdue University where he will major in OLC at the school of Technology.



Hiroshi Fukada

Hiroshi attends West Lafayette High School where he has been involved in many activities during his four years there. He has been a member of the Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and the Marching Band. Hiroshi has also been involved in the Westside Robotics Team that has travelled around the country competing. This year Hiroshi was the leader of the Website team which won the Best Website Award at the FIRST Robotics World Championship. Congrats Hiroshi. If that wasn't enough, Hiroshi is an Eagle Scout, who did his service project here at church by landscaping the entire south side of our church building. Hiroshi is involved both in Sunday School and youth group and has worked at VBS for many years. Hiroshi also participated in a senior high mission trip in downtown Indianapolis. We are honored and proud that Hiroshi is a member of the St Andrew Senior High Community and wish him nothing but the best at Purdue University where he will major in Computer Engineering.



**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL
& COLLEGE SENIORS!!!**

Oops! Change of Plans!



Due to programming conflicts, the luncheon originally scheduled for you and your families on May 2 has been cancelled. In order to ensure we can recognize as many graduates as possible, it will be re-scheduled. We are in the process of planning an alternative to celebrate your success and achievements. We will let you know the details as soon as they are finalized.



I devoted myself to
study and to explore...
all that is done
under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 1:13