

The CrossRoads Connection



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

Movin' on Up!

Three years ago, it was suggested that it might be a good idea for the junior high leaders to help out with BreakAway since these were the kids going into youth group. I had no idea at that time what was being asked of me. There in West Lafayette High School cafeteria sat a room full of ten and eleven year old boys and girls with big eyes and bright smiles. I had no idea that by the end of that week, I'd fall in love with all those kids! Now, three years later, the "wild ride" is over. We've muttered our way through camping, lock-ins, and a dozen other outings. We've combed over bible studies, discussed social issues, and frustrated each other in ways none of us thought possible.... In other words, we became a family!



motivate others to stay on task, and I look for him to be a leader in the years to come!

Allysha Nordyke came to youth group as a friend and just never stopped dropping in! She has more energy than one teenager should be allowed! Allysha can bring a group together faster than most people. She is intelligent and outgoing and outspoken. I firmly believe that Allysha can accomplish anything she decides is worth doing!

Lauren Weston was just a tiny young thing when I first met her. Sometimes, if I squint my eyes I can still see that little girl. However, when my eyes are wide open, I see this incredible young lady that has the ability to bring everyone into the fun. Lauren is full of joy and laughter. She can make me laugh with just a look or a sly smile!

Markie Soposky is a natural born leader. We saw that in the first few days of Break-Away! She's able to see what needs to be done and if she isn't too tired, she's able to motivate others to do it. Markie can roll her eyes like no other teenager has ever been able to do it too. Ask her some

time but realize that for every eye roll we saw, it was always followed by a laugh, an answer, or a smile that let you know that she was onboard.

Maclaine Leaird spreads joy everywhere she goes! If you don't know Maclaine, make sure you get a second to meet her. She has never once come into youth group without a bounce in her step and a smile on her face. Maclaine is a talented writer as well. My favorite thing about Maclaine is she never failed to remember Pie Day in March. In honor of the day, she'd bring in homemade pies!

Brie Mitchell has had more names over the past three years. This young lady is legally named Gabrielle Mitchell. We've called her Brie, Gabby, Elle, and Gabby Cat. Personally, my favorite is the girl formerly known as Brie...But it doesn't matter what you call her. She is an amazing young lady that loves learning. She came to St. Andrew through BreakAway and never left us. In fact, she is now a full-fledged member of our church!



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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.

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Ben Tally has more creative talent in his little pinky than most of us ever see in a lifetime. Ben is an accomplished musician, a talented writer, and constantly testing our knowledge. It has been incredibly enjoyable to watch Ben come in to his own during the past three years. He's flourished into an amazing young man that has the power to be an extraordinary adult!

Stephen Borders is the bounciest young man I've ever met! He glides through a room with energy, charisma, and a smile that brings out the best in those around him. Stephen is great at bringing people together. He has the ability to get people energized to do most anything. The best part about Stephen, he's willing to try just about anything we threw at him.

Andrew Brainard must have grown six feet in the past three years; at least it certainly seemed like it to us! The one thing you could always count on from Andrew, he'd take whatever leftovers we had from snack home. Andrew has a slow dry humor that he throws out when you are not expecting it causing me to laugh easily. He brought an insightfulness and different view to the group.

Adam Bess is a classic. He brings so much humor into everything he does. If we weren't watching closely, Adam would turn the entire youth group lesson into an improv show with his one line zingers. Adam is talented, brilliant, and almost always caused me to say... "Is this question on task?" I'm so sad that Adam is going south with his family but thrilled for Brownsburg... they are getting an amazing young man!

Scott Baldwin joined our group last summer. Scott has this amazing laugh that causes his whole face to get involved. I have to tell you, I expected him to be shy and quiet. Oh, he comes across as a quiet young man... but he's full of fun!

Don't let that outward appearance fool you! Scott has a strong sense of self, and I can't wait to see where he lands over the next few years.

Garrett Kirkwood is our comic relief. He is also the question man. He can put a leader on the spot better than anyone I know. Of course, this pushed the leaders to pull together all kinds of new lesson plans to answer the questions. He is another leader that comes by it naturally. I hope, as he heads into high school, he'll continue that role and be a positive force there too!

Colleen Downard is one busy kid! She plays an instrument. She's incredibly active in 4H. She does soccer, volleyball, and just about anything else she puts her mind to do. We've watched Colleen go from being someone's little sister to the amazing young teen in her own right. The one thing about Colleen is that she is a hard worker. She is always the first to participate, and I have no doubt that when she gets to high school, she is going to have no trouble slipping right into being a part of that group too!

Elyse Romanovich moved to Indiana this year. She just recently started visiting youth group, but I've found her to have this great smile and her face lights up when she talks. I think Elyse will be a wonderful asset to high school, and I look forward to seeing her flourish there.

Morgan Warpenburg joined youth group this year too. She is a lovely young lady that handled being dropped into our group with grace. She plays the flute, and I hope she'll think about joining the youth musical group!

Watch out high school.... Here the come!

Dana



T.O.M. Wacky Olympics -by Monica Hoover

Wackiness and fun ruled the day at the Wacky Olympics as a new season of junior high youth group started off with a little silliness. Silly string that is. Nineteen kiddos, a lot of them our new sixth graders, along with some other new faces, attended this wacky event. The three teams were identified by their brand new beautiful hair colors of purple, green, and pink. To start off the event, the kiddos were adorned with silly string as they made their way to the playground. Next was the string maze where they had to move a ring from one end of the string to the other. However, this string was wound throughout the playground and quite challenging.



After that challenge, they tossed raw eggs to each other through hoops. While 5 dozen eggs were thrown, many were caught with much grace and some eggs found their demise in the hands and on a few heads of some sticky participants. While the kiddos were starting to feel a little gross, they then participated in some messy food twister. Before the game began, the board was smeared with ketchup, mustard, relish, and grape jelly. It was quite a sight to see kids twisted up, falling down, and then covered with yellow, red, purple, and green food. To help clean up, a slip 'n slide soap bath was utilized while the kiddos continued to have much fun.

But wait, the messiness was not over! A game of shaving cream tag then ensued to keep the wackiness going. Finally, a rousing water balloon fight was the culmination of this awesomely wacky day. Oh! I almost forgot! There was a pickle spitting contest somewhere amongst all the wackiness and the girls proved they had the ability to spit the farthest! Throughout the sticky, icky, gooey, wet mess, fun and wackiness was had by all!

BreakAway 2010!

-by Marilyn Foster

What do you get when you take 32 soon-to-be sixth graders, 12 leaders and a week of learning about Jesus? You get a BreakAway experience that is out of this world!

The 2010 BreakAway theme was "Be the Moon...Reflect the Son". Five keys to a stellar faith guided us on our journey.

On Monday, the group focused on service. After participating in a demonstration of how many people in our world don't have enough food to survive, the space cadets were transported to the Church Women United's food bank. Hosted by St. Andrew's own Helen Hayden, the BreakAway cadets sorted and weighed food to help restock the pantry.

Have you ever wanted to tour Purdue's propulsion lab? Well, our space scientists did exactly that on Tuesday. The group saw actual experiments and testing in progress and got to talk with several of the Purdue graduate students who performed the tests. Their challenge later that day was to divide into teams and package an egg in such a manner as to survive a four story fall using only the materials provided. Most of the "egg-stronauts" parachuted to safety, but a few had their signals scrambled and fried upon impact. Bounce or crack, all of our scientists kept their sunny side up.

T-E-A-M-W-O-R-K! Wednesday found our BreakAway explorers at the Purdue team building course where we learned how to work together to accomplish our goals. Traversing through spider webs, avoiding boiling lava and getting Herbie to the movie theatre were all accomplished because our explorers know there is no I in TEAM!

Thursday proved to be a bit risky as our BreakAway Davids traveled to Pine Creek. No slingshots were involved, but every one of our adventurers took the risk and faced Goliath, a swing suspended between 52' poles. Adrenaline was most definitely rushing as we faced our fears and conquered that giant with a smile, a giggle and sometimes screams!

After a busy and fun-filled week, how did our group of space cadets close out the week? POOL PARTY! Thank you, thank you, thank you to Jacqui and Dave Evans for providing the pool and grilling up some fabulous space food. Yes, hot dogs ARE a space food. The group pumped and circumstanced their way through a very lovely graduation amid their families and new BreakAway buds, then our stellar adventure was over.

All newly graduated BreakAway space cadets are invited and thoroughly encouraged to come be a part of Teens on a Mission, the junior high youth group here at St. Andrew. You will have a very fun time with this group!

To close, here's a joke I recently heard. Doesn't really have anything to do with church or BreakAway, other than the spacey theme, but I just laughed and laughed.....

Jupiter came down to Earth one day and decided to help two criminals to rob a bank. Anyway, to make a long story short, they got caught and the three of them found themselves in court. The judge sentenced the two earthlings to fifteen years, and Jupiter was a bit shocked when he was sentenced to ten years. "But your honor," said Jupiter. "I didn't even take part in the robbery!" "Yes," said the judge. "But you helped them --- Planet!"



Senior Spotlight!

We continue to spotlight our Senior High youth who graduated this year.

Patrick Cutter will be attending Indiana State University, where he will be majoring in Accounting or Business. At Harrison High



School, Patch played basketball for four years. He won the Mental Attitude Award his senior year for his leadership and positive motivation on Varsity team, and he led the team in blocks. His AAU basketball team went to the Nationals in Orlando last summer. He also played intramural volleyball and participated in various charity fundraisers. He has shown a talent for cooking and baking and has parlayed that into a summer job on the grill at Culvers.

Nicki Eberle is majoring in Theatre at IU and will be auditioning for the Singing Hoosiers this fall. During High School she was in every drama production imaginable and an officer of the Jefferson Players drama group, The First Edition Show Choir (dance captain), Varsity Singers Concert Choir (section leader), and Expressions all girls show choir. She performed in all four musicals (Cinderella, The Music Man, Beauty and the Beast and High School Musical) and was in the Academic Honors showcase and the ecology club. She didn't have time for much else since she was always in rehearsal for something - usually two productions at the same time. She was also active in Civic Theatre productions.



Karl Theller joined St. Andrew about a year and a half ago and graduated from Harrison High School this year as one of eight valedictorians and a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. He plans to go to Purdue next year to study computer science and is interested in artificial intelligence. Computers and programming have been a part of his life ever since he first sat down at a computer keyboard at age 2 to play Busytown. Seven of his eight years in 4-H he took computer projects and earned champion or reserve champion four times. As a community service project he built a Web site for the Historic Battle Ground Development Corporation. He joined robotics in his junior year and was the programming team captain as a senior. Karl also took Japanese and plans to continue with it in college. He enjoys playing his flute in band and has gotten gold ratings on solos three times. He enjoys canoe-camping at the Boundary Waters or Quetico Provincial Park. His favorite vacation is a week with the cousins at Lakeside, Ohio, a Methodist chautauqua that his family has gone to every year for 15 years.



Calling all Story Tellers!

Okay historians out there – think fast. What do Charlie Chaplin’s Tramp, Teller, and Mr. Bean all have in common? The answer is they are all characters who, for the most part performed silently and did it brilliantly. Now, the puppets are a pretty versatile group, but ours have a pretty tough time of it when it comes to spreading God’s word without speaking.

You can help with this. Yes, I am speaking to you out there with a computer in front of you and stories to tell! We are always ready to welcome writers and their stories because that is most often what puts the words in our puppet’s mouths. So if you have a favorite Bible story, a childhood memory, a life lesson or humorous story that you would like to share then we ask you to please put hands to keyboard and write it as a narrative or a script for our group.

Our hope over this summer is to be able to work on a number of new presentations (large and small) that we can have ready for use next fall and beyond. We would love to have you as one of our volunteer “staff writers” to help create this library.

See you on the other side of the stage!

-Ted