

Year 8  
Issue #14

# The CrossRoads Connection



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

## I am not listening...

I am going to let you in on a little secret, I really dislike texting. In fact, I dislike cell phones in general. I don't really want to be accessible 24 hours a day 7 days a week. If given the opportunity, I'd like to have "office hours" for all major emergencies and general problems. I can see it plainly in my mind "Problems solved between 2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. on Thursday afternoons only." If it doesn't fall in those time frames, don't bother me with the details because I just won't be handling it!



If only I had implemented this plan before today, I could have missed the text message that Jeff sent me on Saturday evening informing me that our basement was flooding. This would have let me stay in Terre Haute enjoying the company of my friends instead of causing me to rush home in a flurry of fear wondering what exactly I was going to find when I got there.

I blame every piece of stress I've had over the flooded basement on that one text from Jeff. Oh sure, you could point out that the basement was going to be an issue even if he hadn't bothered to text me. Someone could say that not having the cell phone would have just delayed the stress that was going to come with a wet basement and soggy carpet. I, however, am blaming the cell phone. Please don't bog me down with logic; I refuse to acknowledge it!

If only life was really as simple as being able to put perimeters around it then I could lead a life free from worries and stress. My dad calls these IF/THEN statements. If you do this, then I'll do that and we'll just be as happy as clams. Unfortunately, it doesn't really work that way in the real world.

It doesn't work that way with God either. God doesn't really barter. I tried on Saturday. I suggested if He would dry up the basement then I'd be forever grateful. Looking back, I can't decide if God gets annoyed at me or if He just laughs at my simplistic views. Either way, I really did say a simple

prayer on my way home. "Dear God, please dry up that basement. Please don't let everything be ruined!"

Want to know a secret? My basement was not dry when I got home two hours later. In fact, it was very much still wet on Sunday morning when I went to church. Where was my answer to prayer? Where were my Godly solutions? I certainly wasn't seeing them on Sunday morning! I was trying very hard not to be frustrated, but I'm not all that sure I actually succeeded.

Cathy Sleeth and Heather Watkins sang a beautiful song for us this past Sunday, "He is not Silent" by Out of the Grey. Do you ever feel like someone is reaching right through to your heart? That is what this song did for me. The lyrics felt like a slap of awakening.

*But He is not silent  
He is not whispering  
We are not quiet  
We are not listening  
He sends a lifeline*

(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.

(Continued from page 1)

*We keep resisting Him  
He is not silent  
We are not listening  
No, we are not listening*

See, God did answer my prayers for help, but I wasn't listening to him. I wasn't even appreciating his response. See, in my dash home, I picked up the phone and called the Johnson family that lives just around the corner from us. They were outside getting ready to walk through the neighborhood to see the damage when Alexis just happened to need something inside the house and heard the phone. Mike, Angela, Drew, and Alexis quickly went to the house to help Jeff. Marilyn Foster came across town to help despite the fact that Ted was home sick. Tom Arrowsmith, after spending time at church cleaning up there, called to see if he could be of service. The Martin family provided an extra dehumidifier. Kim Weston offered fans. See, God gave me a church family that understands what it means to listen! They were the body of Christ in action that weekend! How lucky was I to have them!

James 2:14-17 reads "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you say to them,

'Go in peace, be warmed and filled' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works is dead."

St. Andrew's congregation understands this very deeply. In fact, we apply it daily to each other, to our community, to our kids, and to our world. This week, the senior high mission team is heading to Tennessee and Georgia to put our faith into action. I know that



our congregation will keep us in their prayers and thoughts. I know that while we are working hard, rejoicing in worship, and coming together to be the body of Christ in action that my fellow followers at St. Andrew are also working hard, rejoicing in worship, and coming together to represent the body of Christ. And that gives me great comfort!

*Dana*

### Communication by Vibration

Sunday, July 25, St. Andrew will be sending 36 youth and adults to Chattanooga, TN and Northern Georgia for a week of mission work. Below is a chart that will allow you to pray for each person throughout the week. Please pray for the person by name sometime in their stated hours below. When you have finished praying, call the phone number by their name and it will ring or vibrate. Each member carrying the phone at their stated time will know you've prayed for them. (Please note: They will not actually answer the phone. They will simply know by the ring that *they* are being prayed for at *that* time. Please let it ring three times—and do not leave a message.)

#### Mission Team Prayer Chart

|                          | 8 am—Noon         | Noon—4pm          | 5pm—10pm         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Sunday-July 25</b>    |                   |                   |                  |
| (765) 337-4568           | Jeff Norris       | Taylor Honsowetz  | Kim Weston       |
| (765) 337-7802           | Monica Arrowsmith | Marina Brusnighan | Dana Kirkwood    |
| <b>Monday-July 26</b>    |                   |                   |                  |
| (765) 337-4568           | Leah Winger       | Zach Grundy       | Karissa Weston   |
| (765) 337-7802           | Alex Deason       | Cole Weston       | Rosalie Townsley |
| <b>Tuesday-July 27</b>   |                   |                   |                  |
| (765) 337-4568           | Jacob Deason      | Nick Cutter       | MacLaine Leaird  |
| (765) 337-7802           | Lauren Weston     | Ian Leaird        | Brittany Norris  |
| <b>Wednesday-July 28</b> |                   |                   |                  |
| (765) 337-4568           | Katela Norris     | Nathan Honsowetz  | Emily Townsley   |
| (765) 337-7802           | Laney Arrowsmith  | Matt Klenosky     | Katie Townsley   |
| <b>Thursday-July 29</b>  |                   |                   |                  |
| (765) 337-4568           | Markie Soposky    | Adam Bess         | Ben Tally        |
| (765) 337-7802           | Gabby Mitchell    | Kyle St. John     | Steven Borders   |
| <b>Friday-July 30</b>    |                   |                   |                  |
| (765) 337-4568           | Garrett Kirkwood  | Evan Parker       | Debbie Honsowetz |
| (765) 337-7802           | Andre Brainard    | Ethan Greiner     | Tom Arrowsmith   |

# Just Who Are These People?!

By Marilyn Foster

Did you know that Teens on a Mission (T.O.M.), the junior high youth group, is so much fun that even adults want to be a part of the group?! Or maybe it is that the adult leaders are so cool that the junior high kids just flock to us. Yeah, that's got to be what it is! Seriously though, we really have great leaders in this group – dynamic folks who share their faith with the junior high youth of our church and are fully invested in supporting their walk with Christ.

**Monica Hoover** – In just a few short days, Monica will be Mrs. Marmolejos. She and Jairo are to be married on July 24. She is a Ball State alumna and a special education teacher in the Crawfordsville area. She will most definitely be a beautiful bride! Monica enjoys camping and spending time with her family.



**Jeff Norris and Dana Kirkwood** – These two are the real leaders of the pack. Their love and devotion to the youth at St. Andrew is evident in all they do. Dana generally leads the lessons, and Jeff is the food and games guy. They have four very active kids – all of whom are involved in the CrossRoads program at St. Andrew. Jeff works with the maintenance team at Subaru, and Dana is the Director of Programming for the CrossRoads ministries. She recently began a Masters program in Social Work, and Jeff recently began working on a flooded basement.

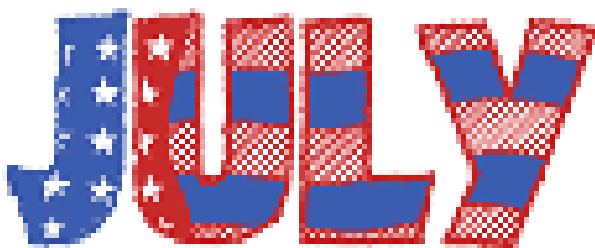


**Marilyn and Ted Foster** – Marilyn and Ted have been part of T.O.M. for three years now. She loves to cook, which is great because they both like to eat! They have one son – a soon to be freshman at Purdue University. Ted leads the Simply People Puppet Troupe at St. Andrew. Marilyn is involved with the Staff/Parish Relations Committee, and they are both involved on the Missions Committee. Marilyn is a medical transcriptionist, and Ted is an engineer with Frontier Communications (formerly Verizon).



**John Baldwin** – John became an official part of our team this year and is proving to be a fantastic addition to the group. He has jumped right in by leading lessons and is getting to be known by the kids as someone other than just “Scott’s dad”! John is a product designer for TRW Automotive.

T.O.M. meets on Sunday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. We generally have some social time, a Bible lesson, some type of activity and sometimes a snack. We definitely have laughing, friendship, acceptance and fun. We have a camping trip planned next month that everyone is looking forward to! If you are a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader, come try us out. You might just be surprised at the fun you have and the new friends you make!



SEE YOU AT THE CROSSROADS

*Remember, you can always access the CR calendar on the Web at [thecrossroads-umc.org](http://thecrossroads-umc.org)*



# Junior High Sunday School

by Julie Conlon

Who is the Holy Spirit? This is the question students in the Jr. High Sunday School class have been exploring this month. Students this age are probably familiar with many stories of Jesus but may not be as familiar with the Holy Spirit. While most already understand the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity, along with God the creator and Jesus the Redeemer, time was spent on learning that the Holy Spirit is present in the Old Testament but only comes to dwell within believers in the New Testament. In a period of growth as young Christians to know, understand, and count on the Holy Spirit to give courage, comfort, and guidance, our Junior High students are purposefully learning that the Holy Spirit gives power to live in the way of Jesus Christ—being the same Spirit that gave courage and direction to the disciples.



With the coming of the Holy Spirit a new family was born, the Christian family. Each of us becomes a part of our families when we are born and Christians become part of the church family through faith in Christ. And, like any family, everyone in the church family plays an important part. But, like all families, members do not always agree with one another. However, through the power of the Holy Spirit we can learn to accept differences and focus on what is most important—telling others about what God has done through Jesus Christ.

Our lessons culminated with a study of I Corinthians 12:4-7, a letter from Paul, an apostle, a follower of Jesus. Paul helped us to understand that there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do. Questions such as: What kinds of things do you feel like you are good at? How would you answer—I felt good by helping others by...What is one time or way you made a difference? Where do our spiritual gifts come from?

To help understand the value of all our gifts, each student was given a colored tube. When struck on a hard surface, each tube was capable of playing a note of an octave. Students were asked: Does each tube make the same sound? Why do you think the tubes produce different sounds? And, can any of you play a tune with only your tube? We culminated this activity playing Jesus Loves Me, understanding that when we put all the tubes together we can produce more complex and interesting music. The same is true with our spiritual gifts!

After self-examination to explore the ways God has gifted each student, students made a mural using dove shapes, on which they wrote one or more of the gifts they have been given. Students were advised that as they get older, they may find their ideas about their spiritual gifts change—that they may find there are gifts that they didn't think about today and that growing in faith means learning more about God and more about themselves as they spend time with God each day.

## July/August Junior High Events

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

July 25

10a Sunday School  
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

August 1

10a Sunday School  
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

August 8

10a Sunday School  
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

August 15

10a Sunday School  
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

August 21

Camping—Details coming

August 22

10a Sunday School  
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

August 29

10a Sunday School  
6p T.O.M., The Intersection

