

The CrossRoads Connection



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

What I Learned

Over the week-end, I had the opportunity to go with some CrossRoads Leaders to a youth leadership conference. I was so excited to go and see what other people around the country had learned about youth leadership and how



Dana Kirkwood is the Program Director for the CrossRoads community.

it directly affects “our kids”. You know what I learned; I learned that 9% of religious upbringing will come from CrossRoads. Close to 40 percent will come from their parents!

In fact, when asked, most college aged, high school and junior high students informed the researchers that they model their faith on their parents. This was somewhat startling. I realized parents are very important. I knew that our kids were paying attention to

their parents. What I didn’t realize, is that they were able to verbalize how much they were paying attention. So I had to ask myself, am I modeling a faith that I want my children to take up? Is Jeff?

If I want my kids to realize that faith is important as they mature, I need to be involved at church not only for them but for myself. I want them to see that I think my faith studies are important. I want my children to see that my friendships are with people that understand the importance of walking a Christian lifestyle. It is easy to get caught up in making sure my kids are getting to Sunday school or youth group.

However, it is just as easy to push my needs back for lack of time. Do I want my kids to model that concept? Do I want them to think my faith comes last behind everyone else’s needs?

Do you know what else the “experts” told me? If I want our kids to see a life of faith, they need to be exposed to many different generations within our church. The youth need to work with our seasoned adults, our young parents, our Children’s

Ministry kids, and with everyone in between! A cross generational experience is needed to give the youth the opportunity to be exposed to as many

(Continued on page 2)



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.



(Continued from page 1)

Christian followers as possible within our church. They are much more likely to stay with their faith as they get older if they see it practiced at all stages of life.

This is not as easily done. After all, the world has painted the youth of today as defiant, rude, and untrustworthy people. Adults are not jumping at the chance to be involved with our students. In fact, despite how amazing our youth are, finding a volunteer to sub can be quite difficult; let alone finding someone that wants to devote a longer period of their week with these amazing kids. Would YOU be willing to come alongside them?

The best part of this conference, however, was the hope that it showed us. We were reminded that all in all, CrossRoads programs are hitting the mark. The youth groups are giving the kids a place to realize that being a Christian is not dull and boring but filled with joy and love; Sunday School is teaching the kids the lessons within the Bible. They are tackling God's word and making it real for our kids! The small groups, such as Puppets and BroZone, are providing

the kids with a smaller connection of like believers. All of our areas are providing a place where vulnerability is found. Our kids can ask any question, no matter where the student is on the walk! Doubt is not discounted but explored! Fear is not minimized but dissected.

When the week-end was over, I found myself very humbled by the leadership within St. Andrew and CrossRoads! I realized that for the youth participating in our programming, we are being successful. I got excited with many new and exciting opportunities for the future. But most importantly, I realized that Jesus Christ is alive and well within the leadership of CrossRoads and our programming. That it is when we are pushing Jesus' agenda forward for our kids, the programming is most successful. And... that I am the luckiest girl around because I get to work with some fantastic adults and some amazing youth! It doesn't get better than this!

Dana

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



SEE YOU AT THE CROSSROADS

REMINDER!

Young Vibrations Lock-In
Friday, February 10–
Saturday, February 11
7 p.m.–8 a.m.

Ice Skating, Bowling, Pizza, Ice Cream Sundaes, Games, Movie, and Cooking Baking!

Sign up by February 7!

Volunteers are still needed!

To volunteer or RSVP contact Mark Copeland at markr.copeland@gmail.com or 426-7704



We are making a difference...



Tom, Mark & Kim at the Youth Leadership Conference

...at the CrossRoads!

CrossRoads in Action...

GOLDen Girls is a small group of high school girls that is helping to make leaders of the next generation. Corinne Gentry took this part of the mission seriously when she contacted Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center. She helped put together a work day. Twelve high school young ladies spent an hour helping clean the office, including the bathrooms, and sort baby items for the clientele. Good Job GOLDen Girls and good job, Corinne!



Karissa Weston helps sort baby clothes.



Robyn Campbell and Skylar Ebershoff working on Oakland High School's clothing supply.



Abby Burchill helps clean.

NEW NAME FOR JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP!

A NOTE FROM MARK

You may have noticed a new name for the junior high youth group - "Young Vibrations." I have been thinking and reflecting for a name for the junior high group since I took leadership last fall. Young Vibrations is the name I have chosen based on imagery and synonyms of feelings, atmosphere, sensation, energy, and music. I believe this captures the essence of a vibrant group of young Christian girls and boys of this age.

I challenged the kids this past Sunday to brainstorm possible ideas for a logo. I'm also open to input and ideas for a tag line.

I'm very much starting to feel the group come together under my watch. You will start seeing "Young Vibrations" used in messages, calendars, and events. Enjoy!

~Mark

Senior High Update

For the past month the Senior High Youth Group has been studying and talking about Random Acts of Kindness and Pay it Forward. We have watched YouTube video's on the subject and had the kids do their own acts of kindness. The acts that our youth admitted to included, holding doors, writing notes of encouragement, paying for others in the fast food drive thru, saying hello to strangers, handing out compliments, handing out candy, etc.... This past Sunday we sent out 10 care packages to recent St. Andrew High School Graduates. We want them to know that their church is thinking of them and praying for them in whatever endeavor their life is in. So we sent them homemade cookies, toys, candy, play dough, etc.... but the most important thing they all got was hand written cards letting them know we are praying for them, thinking of them, and wishing them the best. We called it Operation Kindness and hope our recent grads enjoy the packages as much as we enjoyed putting them together.

FEBRUARY Events

Senior High Youth

- 2/2 BroZone
- 2/3 6pm Scrapbook Set up & Movie
- 2/5 *NO YOUTH GROUP*
- 2/6 GOLDen Girls
- 2/9 BroZone
- 2/12 Youth Group
- 2/13 GOLDen Girls
- 2/16 BroZone
- 2/19 Youth Group (Event)
- 2/20 *NO GOLDen Girls*
- 2/23 BroZone
- 2/26 Youth Group
- 2/27 GOLDen Girls

On February 11, Tom Arrowsmith will be participating in Freezin' for a Reason, otherwise known as Polar Bear plunge, in support of Special Olympics. This will take place at Purdue in front of Ross Ade Stadium. Tom invites anyone who is interested in donating to the cause to put a check to Special Olympics in his mailbox or to him directly. If you would like to come out and watch Tom make a fool of himself head over to the stadium around 10:30 a.m. or so.

Freezin' For A Reason



As of January 30 we have 34 youth and 8 adults signed up to go on the Senior High Mission trip. We are going to Birmingham, Alabama, July 22-27, which is the dead week before sports start. We still have room if anyone else is interested. It is open to all current 8th graders thru 12th graders.

