



April 2012

Crossroads Connections



A church in the crossroads of life

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Published in the late journal, *The Christian Ministry*, was a brief synopsis by pollster, George Barna, regarding how church visitors like to be treated. The title of the article is: "Don't Push So Hard." And this is what he says:

"Those polled said what they hated: Wearing Name Tags. Standing up and identifying themselves during worship. Having a minister or church member visit them at their home in the week after they visited."

He continues:

"The same visitors did like: Being greeted individually following the service. Taking home printed information about the church. Getting a thank-you note from the minister... Many visitors like to attend under the comfort and security of anonymity...nearly half of all adults said they become annoyed when someone tries to share religious beliefs with them."

I share these findings of Barna with you because they are important contributors to the evangelistic success or failure of congregations. There is no doubt that the world has changed and is changing. Things that worked before will not work now. They may even hinder God's work being done.

Don't Push So Hard



My approach to prospective members, new members, visitors, and friends of the church has always been: Come as you are; Go as you please; and, God bless you everyone. People come to church because they want to and not because they have to. They come as free agents, no strings attached. They abhor manipulation and guilt inducement. They stay because they sense openness and caring at the core of the congregation's being.

Be gentle. Be open and caring. Don't push so hard! People reward the church with their attendance. God rewards people for their faithfulness.

Hardly pushing and openly invitingly yours,

Ron Degges

President - Disciples Home Missions

Maundy Thursday

April 5 - Meal 6 pm

Worship 7 pm

24-Hour Prayer Vigil

April 6-7 noon to noon

Crossroads Contributes!



Members of our congregation were inspired at the fall SEGA Assembly to create Church World Service school kits. Over the past several months we

have been in production of 70 bags and will soon stuff them full of donated school supplies. The project extended from our congregation to a sewing activity at the January Martin Luther King, Jr. program sponsored by Lebanon Kids, where Staci serves as the after-school director.



Pictured are Lisa Cripe, Doug & Staci Cripe, Dale Hodges, Jennifer & Sophia Lewis, and Vygantè Mizgerytè.

Elder's Corner

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-19)

"You're not as young as you used to be" seems to be a common complaint among those of an aging generation. All of us playing the back nine of our lives seem to notice time rushing faster as we get older. In addition, our physical bodies begin to break down and fail us as we age. Modern medicine devotes many hours of research and care in order to prolong and maintain our lengthening lives, but death as we well know can't be postponed.

However, in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he observes that as we deteriorate on the outside, our inner selves—our souls if you will, are being refreshed and renewed daily. As our years lengthen, this transformation occurs slowly...almost invisibly to our awareness, until we inevitably recognize our metamorphosis. In fact the trials and tribulations of our outer selves serve to strengthen our inner beings with resolve and endurance. Paul knew that the troubles and concerns of this world were insignificant compared to the eternity of Christ; and even though we may suffer for Him, we are also privileged to share in His glory. The things of this world are temporary and will pass with time, but the heavenly things will never pass away and are forever lasting.

So how do we continue to persevere in a world of suffering, pain, and violence?

Food For Thought...

Your acts of kindness reveal your soul's true identity

Although we may moan and complain about our current state of physical health, let us therefore be encouraged by the knowledge that a crown of glory awaits us when we're finally called home.

Pat McAllister

Chips from the Board

21 People were in attendance at the March board meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Set into record.

Treasurer and Financial Secretary reports to be filed for audit.

Stewardship/Finance – Stewardship committee meeting to be held on Monday, March 26, 2012 at 9:00a.m.

Hospitality –Sign-up sheet for Maundy Thursday, April 5, 2012 (carry-in dinner) was actively circulated throughout the congregation today. Also, hold April 22nd open to attend the Casting and Catching at Crossroads (guest preacher and dinner).

Pastor’s Report - 2011 Yearbook Report has been submitted.

Elders - Ron Goff presented his view on the second Interdenominational Worship from our church held at Knollwood.

Next Board Meeting to be held on: Sunday, April 15, 2012.

Did You Know?

Crossroads has a special Choir Memorial Fund to order choir anthems in memory or in honor of a loved one. When you contribute to this fund, an anthem is selected and each copy is marked with the name of the person you wish to honor or remember along with your name as the donor. This information will also be included in the worship bulletin the first time the music is presented. Please see Lisa Cripe or Carol Brookshire if you have any questions.

Crossroads Choir has been sponsoring a young boy from Rwanda for the last several years through Compassion International. Mukunzi Olivier is 13 years old, and the choir has had the pleasure of watching Mukunzi grow into a fine young teenager. We support him through our gift of \$32 each month, in addition to a special gift for Christmas and his birthday. We are always happy to accept donations for Mukunzi, and if you would like to help with this commitment, please see Carol Brookshire.

Affton Christian Church is looking for anyone age 13 and older who is interested in going on a mission trip to Joplin on May 18-20. Please contact Pastor Brittany at bbick@eden.edu for more details

Hear **Mahatma Gandhi’s grandson** speak on April 21 at 9 a.m. at the Shrine. Register online at snows.org for \$20. Pastor Doug has been part of the planning committee for this event.

A Thank You

The Fairview Heights Food Pantry thanks you for your donation to us. It is because of people like you that we are able to feed the needy. Without you it would not get done. Again we thank you for your support.

Mary E. Barbee - Treasurer

Concerns

- Marie R.
- Charlotte W.,
- Shirley (Susan's mother-in-law), recovering from surgery
- Kevin's mom, knee surgery
- Tabetha (Staci's daughter), surgery
- Loren M. (Leroy's brother), recovering from heart surgery
- Death of JoAnn (friend of Staci)
- Friends of Jacob & Tashia, rough patch in life
- Donna (Jacob's mom), asthma
- Bulah (Jennifer's friend's grandma), cancer
- Danny (friend of Hedy & Leroy), killed in motorcycle accident
- Death of Kay Meyer (friend of Marie R)
- Connie (broken wrist)
- Death of Edwin Fiedler (Connie's uncle)
- Amy (Pat P. stepdaughter), health
- Billy (friend of Pastor Doug)
- Kim N. (David's friend)
- Lenny (Faye P. son)
- Lori from BEACON
- Steve B
- Tom (Jessie's husband)

Global Concerns

- Congo, many died in arms depot explosion
- School shooting in Ohio
- Japan, 1-year ago earthquake
- Syria unemployment, poverty
- Children caught in human trafficking

Joys

- Margaret S. received the Valiant Woman Award from CWU
- Dave (Tashia's dad), returned home from overseas!
- Dolly (Jo J. friend), 95th birthday
- Eric, bowling team did well



Continuing Education Opportunity

Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm will be leading a workshop entitled "Leading Adaptive Change in Mainline Congregations"

Thursday, May 3, 2012

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves

10 W. Lockwood, St. Louis, MO 63119

Pastors and lay leaders are invited to this *free seminar*

R.S.V.P to d.k.philips@att.net or (314) 494-4489

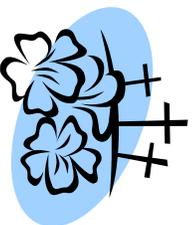


Lay Worship Leaders—April 2012

	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Worship	Patty Buckhannon	Kay Marshall	Mike Thompson	Lori Burgess	Staci Cripe
Children's	Jennifer Lewis	Pastor Doug	Pat McAllister	Jennifer Lewis	Pastor Doug
Elders—Bread	Kay Marshall	Dan Upton	Maggie Daugherty	Maggie Daugherty	Kay Marshall
Deacons	Carol Brookshire	Pat Killian	Pat Killian	Carol Brookshire	Carol Brookshire
Deacons	Staci Cripe	Staci Cripe	Carolyn Percivall	Staci Cripe	Carolyn Percivall
Serve	David Kennedy	Lori Burgess	David Kennedy	Carolyn Percivall	Bonnie Speraw
Deacons	Staci Cripe	N/A	David Kennedy	N/A	David Kennedy
Deacons					
Acolytes	Vyganté Mizgeryté	Andrea House	Andriana House	Eric Mielke	Lauren Dueland
Greeter	Cathy Mielke	Pat Killian	Curt Sutton	Staci Cripe	Marie Dyar
Audio Visual	David Kennedy	David Kennedy	David Kennedy	David Kennedy	David Kennedy
Scripture	Palm Sunday Mark 11:1-11	Easter! Mark 16:1-8	"Titanic Doubt" John 20:19-31	"Catching & Casting a Vision" John 21:1-17	"Which Way?" Acts 4:5-12



April 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday 9:30 Sunday School	2	3	4 NO BIBLE STUDY 7:00 Choir	5 Maundy Thursday 6:00 Dinner 7:00 Worship	6 Good Friday 24 Hour Prayer Vigil 12:00pm - 12:00 am	7 24 Hour Prayer Vigil 12:00 am - 12:00 pm
8 Easter Sunday NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 Refreshments	9	10	11 10:00 Pickle Ball 5:30 Dinner/Bible Study 7:00 Choir	12	13	14
15 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Board Meeting	16	17 12:00 Lunch Bunch at Tony's in Mascoutah	18 10:00 Pickle Ball 5:30 Dinner/Bible	19 7:00 Elder's Meeting	20	21
22 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45 Worship 12:00 Lunch-Catching & Casting a Vision	23	24	25 10:00 Pickle Ball 5:30 Dinner/Bible Study 7:00 Choir	26	27	28
29 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	30					

Happy Anniversary!
 3 Cathy and Gary Mielke
 20 Patty and Bill Peterman
 25 Wayne and Marie Reichling

Happy Birthday!
 4 Rollie Hoehn
 5 Megan Weygandt
 7 Kathy Upton
 11 Jedediah Goble
 11 Vera Hudson
 16 Emily Reichling
 21 Amy Dixon
 21 Gay Lang
 23 Amy Yeager
 25 Grace Barbee
 27 Teri Reichling
 30 Margaret Sutton

Disciples News

Dear SEGA friends and colleagues,

I share with you the bitter sweet news that Orchard Crest Camp has been sold. The transaction has officially closed. The Area has received payment from the sale, and the buyers have taken possession of the property.

During the course of preparing for the sale, we discovered that we owned 221 acres, rather than 231. In the past, surveys were done "by hand." Now they are done by GPS, making them more accurate. The 221 acres sold for \$1225 per acre for a total of \$270,725. Of course, the costs for selling the camp (including the realtor's fee) will be subtracted from that amount. The remainder will be turned into an endowment fund that is invested (probably with the Christian Church Foundation). The interest income will be used for youth and outdoor ministries

programming and scholarships. The executive committee of the SEGA board will be meeting soon to begin working out the details.

The buyers are a married couple from Aztec, New Mexico, who are going to make the camp their home. Their plan is to transform the existing dining hall into a three bedroom home. They have a high interest in gardening and in eventually having horses on the property. At the buyers' invitation, Wendell Bellew and his family are going to remain in the house by the front gate (at least for the short run), and Wendell will continue to provide security.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to SEGA Board members Joy Faires and Judy Ridlen for their dedication over the last two years. Throughout this process there was an extremely wide variety of necessary tasks including appearing in court to

secure a title, driving many miles to obtain signatures before deadlines, and literally rolling up sleeves and donning rubber gloves to clean up the property. We are truly indebted to them for their innumerable hours of volunteer work that made the sale happen.

We continue to be grateful to the many volunteers who built and maintained the buildings on the property over the years, as well as to the directors, counselors, and campers who turned Orchard Crest into a place where countless lives were changed as they

experienced the love of God. Indeed, Lydia Sandmeier's dream came true over and over again. Now her dream will continue to live on through the Orchard Crest Endowment Fund.

Once the details of the Orchard Crest Endowment Fund are worked out and approved by the SEGA Board, we will share that information widely. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Blessings,
Penny Ross-Corona
Area Minister

Summer Camp Information

Family Camp for children, youth, and adults at Camp MoVal, July 24-28. Mark the dates on your calendar.

Registration forms available at segadisciples.org or from Pastor Doug, who is co-directing this year's event.





Christian Church

2415 North 89th Street
Caseyville, IL 62232
(618)398-1587

Pastor—Rev. Dr. Douglas Cripe
ddcripe@gmail.com

Interim Office Secretary—Pat McAllister
crossroadsdisciple@sbcglobal.net

Music Director—Lisa Cripe
lacripe@charter.net

Custodian—Gary Elkins
Nursery—Rebekah Cripe

We're Disciples: a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world

Casting and Catching

Something's "fishy" at Crossroads.



Come find out what as we celebrate,
enjoy food, and get "caught" by the
Spirit!

Sunday, April 22, 2012

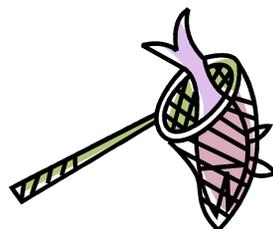
10:45 worship with guest

Penny Ross-Corona (our Southeast
Gateway Area Minister)

Lunch at Noon followed by

Casting and Catching

at Crossroads



a time to
catch
your ideas
and **cast** a
vision!

Memorial Blvd.
Christian Church
Annual Hike Against
Hunger

Saturday, April 21, 2012
at 8 am

3914 Botanical

St. Louis, MO

for more information

[http://mbccstl.com/
Newsletter.html](http://mbccstl.com/Newsletter.html)