

February 2013



# Crossroads Connections



A church in the crossroads of life

## Along the Way

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"Look out the window!" someone recently exclaimed to me. I looked outside but did not see anything unusual, so I replied, "Um...ok. What am I supposed to see?" The reply came back, "It's still light outside! Usually at this time of day it's dark—but it's getting lighter!"

Ah yes, a sign of spring—and of Lent. The word *lent* comes from an Old English word that meant "to lengthen," referring to the longer days as we move closer to spring and wander through the 40 days before Easter. Someone at Crossroads recently counted the days on the calendar and noticed that the six weeks contain more than 40 days. Very observant! The Sundays do not count as part of Lent since they are considered "mini-Easters," resting places along the way as we walk together toward Easter Sunday.

Some have suggested that we give up certain foods during Lent as a way to express our sorrow for sins or faults. Others suggest giving up bad habits, such as yelling, discrimination, smoking, overeating, or other behaviors that harm ourselves or others. Another way to honor Lent is by beginning certain positive practices, such as devotions, exercise, or by helping those in need. Our actions in Lent reflect the changes in the season—just as the length of the day changes outside our windows, our lives can change inside as well. What have you been striving to change in your life? Maybe there's a friendship that has been severed. How might Lent prompt you to change and reconnect to the person? Now's a good time to practice a new

pattern for six weeks—from Ash Wednesday (February 13) through Easter (March 31), and even beyond!

We have several events planned at Crossroads to help us along the Lenten journey:

- **Pancakes and Ashes** (Feb. 13): the men will prepare a pancake and sausage supper (6:00), followed by a worship service at 7:00. What does losing your luggage have to do with Lent? Come and ponder that question.
- Explore the **meaning of the Last Supper** (Wednesday evenings Feb. 20-March 20, 5:30): We will begin with dinner, watch segments of a five-week series on the Last Supper, and discuss how this central event affects us today.
- **Book study** of the novel *Joshua* (Wednesdays in March, 2:30-4:00): Meet the carpenter Joshua who arrives in town and stirs up conversation and controversy. How might his journey help us along our Lenten path?
- **Crossroads Players** will offer dramatic readings during worship each Sunday during Lent, helping us reflect on this season.
- **Maundy Thursday** (March 28): Come and remember the final meal Jesus ate with his disciples before he died. How does this meal affect your continuing journey in faith?
- **Prayer Vigil** (March 29-30): Pray at home or church during a 24-hour vigil

Hope to see you along the way toward Easter.

*Pastor Doug*



### Worship times:

Sunday School at 9:30 am.

Worship at 10:45 am.

## Elder's Corner

One of the most important discussions about faith and God's relationship with the human race comes from Paul's letter to the Romans. Written about the time of the first Gospel (Mark), the letter serves as an introduction to Paul's teaching to a congregation he had never visited but wished to. As a scholar of the Jewish Scriptures, Paul was able to "connect the dots" after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Suddenly everything he had studied became clear after this revelation, and the letter lays out many concepts of Christianity and faith that we still utilize today. In a way it's a how-to book on how to live as faithful followers of Christ.

A subject that Paul spent a great deal of time on was the ideas of justification and sanctification. The word *justification* describes how as followers of Christ we are justified or made right with God. We are considered "not guilty" because our sinful debt has been paid in full by Christ. When we accept Him we are taken into God's family as adopted children, we are made righteous by Jesus' sacrifice, and we are freed from guilt of sin, and therefore we endeavor to please God out of love rather than fear of punishment. This gift of free grace and salvation is difficult enough to grasp since it is undeserved and unearned, yet God loves us enough to offer it freely as a gesture of reconciliation.

But it doesn't end there. After our acceptance of Christ, our difficult journey of *sanctification* begins. This is the process by which we live our lives with Christ as the center. As Paul

explains it our old selves are crucified with Christ, and we are raised anew with Christ as new beings. Our sanctification is our emulation of Christ's teachings and living our faith, trusting God to guide us in every way. During our journey we will encounter obstacles, disappointments, doubt, turmoil, and tragedy as we experience the struggles of life. The difference now is how we handle adversity, and as Paul advises, using adversity as a way to strengthen our faith. In essence, the troubles of life help us to trust God more as we gain experience and growth in faith, and as a result we can also help and encourage others.

A couple of analogies that may help us to understand: Gemstones mined from the ground rarely are perfect when extracted. The gemologist carefully examines the stone and cuts sections away and polishes the facets to create the precious stone we see at the jewelers. Likewise precious metals such as gold or silver are rarely 100 % pure metal when mined. They must be separated, refined, and made pure by fire and heat. Our sanctification involves this purification process by outside forces, and it serves to make our faith stronger and purer. When life's troubles buffet us around and cause our faith in God to weaken, it's comforting to know that God continues to have faith in us and remains with us throughout our journey.

— Pat McAllister

## Chips from the Board

Due to illegal dumping of a TV into our dumpster, the church will need to provide a lock to avoid possible future fines. Allied Trash will charge a one-time fee of \$55 to swap our current bin for one adaptable to a lock.

Pastor's health insurance has increased 12%.

Upcoming events include Ash Wednesday worship service Feb. 13 preceded by Pancake & Sausage Dinner, Wednesday evening meal/Bible study will continue through Mar. 20 with Maundy Thursday service on Mar. 28. Chain of Prayer will be observed from noon Fri., Mar. 29 to noon Sat., Mar. 30.

## Dare to Lead

At the January Board meeting, members voted to begin a two-year Dare to Lead program, along with several other Disciples congregations in the St. Louis area. This process is open to any member of the congregation as we learn together how to strengthen leadership and envision our future. The first training event will be held at a St. Louis congregation February 15-18, with a second event toward the end of May. We will carpool each day to the meeting and eat meals at the host church. If interested in attending, speak with Pastor Doug.

## Since Sandy Hit Ground

Since Hurricane Sandy hit ground, Week of Compassion has been responding. In the weeks following Sandy, Week of Compassion provided solidarity grants to those in our congregations affected by Sandy, as well as supported ecumenical Church World Service efforts to provide material resources such as clean-up kits to areas affected by flooding. As part of our continuing response, I joined Director of Disciples Volunteering Josh Baird, General Minister and President Sharon Watkins and Northeast Regional Pastor Mary Ann Glover on a January 6-9 pastoral visit to areas affected by Sandy. During this visit, we not only met with Disciples pastors and congregational leaders to talk about their experiences and ways they are responding to community needs, but also with some potential partners for supporting a long-term hands-on response for Disciples volunteers from all over North America.

—Brandon Gilvin, Week of Compassion

Board approved participation in the Disciple-sponsored "Dare to Lead" program through Hope Partnership, which focuses on enabling members to become leaders in the congregation and provides training and retreats on how to use the resources we have and how to reach out to the community. Cost of this two-year program, after initial \$1000 grant and if payment is made in full, would be \$3048 with the possibility of obtaining additional grant money (another \$1000 grant was just approved). This program is open to any member who wish to participate. Stewardship/Finance Committee will meet and determine how to finance this program.



Blankets from Johns Creek Christian Church in Georgia for a school in Far Rockaway, Queens. With Brandon Gilvin (Week of Compassion), Josh Baird (Disciples Volunteering), Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins (General Minister and President DOC), Principal Grady and local pastor NaRon Tillman.

## Prayers

- Death of Mary Cooper (sister of Pat R.)
- Aaron (friend of Virginia & Susan) seizures
- Jennifer, approved for ordination and called to serve a church for 8 weeks
- Vera
- Dale, flu
- Pat B, flu
- Death of Mandy Gosik's mother
- Death of Kim's friend, Estie (cancer, 2 young daughters left)
- Death of Lori Burgess' father
- Jodie Hoehn, bronchitis & flu
- Shawna (Dawn's daughter) frame removed and cast put on, healing of bones
- Death of Jennifer's grandpa
- Carolyn P, fell fractured spine
- Bernard (Kim H. Dad) found polyps on liver
- Pat R. (Margaret's daughter-in-law) home from hospital
- Kim (friend of Pat P) recovering from lung cancer surgery
- Lenny (son of Faye P.) 5th surgery on knee that was crushed in accident
- Nick & Jenny (family of Pat H.) custody hearing
- Barb (friend of Marie R.) recovering from kidney stones
- Sue (friend of Kay) leg and hip better than expected



### Our Homebound

Pat Beyer  
Ray Doctorman  
Rollie & Jodie Hoehn  
Vera Hudson  
Mary Moss  
Nelson Rodriguez-Arté

### Deacon's Benevolence Fund

Please keep in mind that Crossroads Christian Church has an emergency assistance fund available to Church members who are in need. If you are in need please contact Pastor Doug or an Elder. Your request will be held in the strictest confidence. If you would like to donate to the fund please place your donation in the offering plate or bring/send to the office. Be sure to designate that the funds are for the Deacon's benevolence fund.

### Notes

Hello Everyone,  
I just want to wish you all a happy and prosperous year ahead. The visits once a year home seem so short, but I'm glad that I can spend some time and worship with you. I am an associate member of the church I attend. I'm active here, but I still miss you all.

In Christian Love,  
Faye Pritz

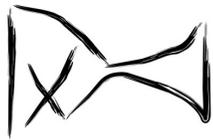
Happy New Year to everyone!

Mary Jane Tucker



## Lay Worship Leaders—February, 2013

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
<b>Worship Leader</b>	David Kennedy Jr.	Dan Upton	Patty Buckhannon	Marie Reichling
<b>Elders – Bread &amp; Cup</b>	Mona McAllister	Ken Holmes	Ron Goff	Pat McAllister
<b>Deacons Prepare</b>	Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith	Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith	Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith	Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith
<b>Deacons Serve</b>	Betty Allen Carole Thompson Patty Peterman Marie Reichling			
<b>Deacons Candles</b>	Betty Allen	N/A	Marie Reichling	N/A
<b>Sanctuary</b>	Carole Thompson	Patty Peterman	Betty Allen	Carole Thompson
<b>Greeter</b>	Curt Sutton	Marie Reichling	Doug Cripe	Pat Killian
<b>Audio-Visual</b>	Kay Marshall	Staci Cripe	David Kennedy Jr.	David Kennedy Jr.
<b>Fellowship</b>		Patty Buckhannon Carol Brookshier		
<b>Scriptures</b>	Nehemiah 8:1-10 Luke 4:14-21 “Time Capsule Scroll”	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Luke 4:21-30 “Entering the Blue Zone”	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16 Luke 4:1-13 “hAPPY in Lent?”	Psalms 63:1-8 John 15:1-11 “Tangled Vines”



# February 2013

## SEGA Prayers for the Month

2/3-2/9 Watson Terrace Christian Church, St. Louis, MO  
 2/10-2/16 Union Avenue Christian Church, St. Louis, MO  
 2/17-2/23 First Christian Church, Troy, MO  
 2/24-3/2 Webster Groves Christian Church, Webster Groves, MO

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	<b>4</b> Kevin Daugherty Lee Smothers Sophia Lewis Jonathan Cripe Carole Thompson	<b>Happy Birthday</b> <b>14</b> Amber Reichling <b>21</b> Jared Ott <b>23</b> Cameron Medley Noelle Moder Bonnie Speraw	<b>6</b> 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Pancakes and Ashes 6:00pm  Ash Wednesday	<b>14</b>  Happy Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> Dare to Lead vent begins (thru 18th) in St. Louis	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	<b>18</b> President's Day	<b>19</b> 12:00 Lunch Bunch	<b>20</b> 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Noon: Board Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  GROUNDHOG DAY

## Watkins, other Disciple leaders participate in Obama inauguration

The Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, general minister and president, offered the opening acclamation for the [Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service](#) for President Barack Obama on Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. Watkins was the preacher for Obama's first inaugural prayer service, joined by the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale of Georgia providing the invocation. Hale also participated again this year with a Hebrew Testament reading at the pre-inaugural church service at St. John's on Monday morning.



## Thank you to the following for the donation of beautiful poinsettias:

Ron Goff

In Honor of: My Brother, Daughters, Son-in-Law and Grandchildren

Betty Allen

In Memory of: Dallas Earl Allen Sr. & Dallas Earl Allen Jr.

Patty & Jim Buckhannon, Carol & Dan Brookshier, Meredith & Noelle Moder

In Memory of: Wallace & Louise Kays

Dan & Kathy Upton

In Memory of: Pat Kinney, Keith & Ruth Upton

Carole & Mike Thompson

In Memory of: Loved Ones

Susan Johnasen-Smith

In Memory of: Isaac Johnasen & Rosemary Johnasen

Bill & Pat Peterman

In Memory of: Ethan & Nic and Our Parents

Carolyn Percivall

In Memory of: George Percivall

Cathy & Eric Mielke

In Memory of: The Clinard Family and Powers Family

The McAllister Family

In Memory of: Loved Ones

Jennifer & Sophia Lewis

In Memory of: Laura Ramsey

In Honor of: Paw-Paw & Day-Day Lewis

Virginia Johnasen

In Memory of: Isaac Johnasen, Rosemary Johnasen, George Haynes, Margaret Haynes and Betty Haynes

Ken & Shirley Holmes

In Memory of: Bruce Waldron





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Hours: Monday 9-1 Wednesday 1-5  
Thursday 8-12

Music Director - Lisa Cripe  
lacripe@charter.net

Nursery - Connie McAllister  
Custodian - Richard Reichling

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

## Upcoming Events

### Lunch Bunch

On Tuesday, February 19, the Lunch Bunch will meet at The Abbey, 5801 West Main in Belleville at noon. Sign-up sheet is in fellowship hall.

On Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship, and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring, and on this Sunday we invite you to bring cans of food for our local food pantries. Our loose change offering will also go to local food pantries.



### Souper Bowl of Caring



[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)